

Israeli jets buzz Beirut to boost morale of Christians

Israeli officials issued warnings to the Syrians over their troops' continuing artillery attacks on the Lebanese Christians yesterday and backed their warnings by sending Israeli aircraft to "buzz" Beirut. In Beirut, President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, who is himself a Christian, was reported as having said he wished to resign.

Syrians accused of Lebanon massacre

From Michael Knipe
Jerusalem, July 6
Israeli aircraft "buzzed" Beirut today and senior Israeli officials in Jerusalem accused Syria of attempting to impose the rule of Damascus over Lebanon. They said this would have a serious effect on Israel's defence thinking.

Although the warnings came from officials rather than ministers, they were plainly made with top authority. Israel's commitment to the Lebanese Christians was emphasized and the rest of the world was castigated for standing by while the Christians were massacred.

Major-General Shlomo Gazit, Israel's chief of military intelligence, said the Israeli aircraft had buzzed the Lebanese capital to help raise the morale of the Christians. He accused the Syrian Army of methodically destroying buildings in the Christian quarter. The purpose of the operation, he said, was to impose Damascus on Lebanon. With flagrant cynicism the world stands by and nothing is said or done.

Israel was seriously concerned, he said, because if Syria was successful, Lebanon would for the first time become a confrontation state.

The intelligence chief's words were echoed by Mr Ben Elissar, the Director-General of the Prime Minister's office, who told reporters: "We consider with profound concern and gravity the events in Lebanon."

"Syrian forces are performing a massacre among the civilian population of Beirut. We have promised and committed ourselves not to let the Christian population be annihilated. The events in Lebanon," he said, "were a lesson we should all learn of what can happen when a small, weak country is in a struggle for independence, actually today, for its life."

The Israeli Government, he said, would consider what steps should be taken.

General Gazit, who was giving a rare press conference, said the Syrians had considerably increased their military equipment around Beirut. More than half their forces in Lebanon were now surrounding the capital's Christian quarter. The exact number of casualties was not known because hospitals could not be evacuated but it was estimated to be at least 400 dead with a great many more wounded.

Asked how long the Christians could hold out, the intelligence chief said that if things continued as they were, he was afraid it would not be very long; a question of days and hours.

Major-General Gazit said Syrian casualties were "very low since they are not involved in the fighting". He accused the Syrians of attempting to destroy practically everything they saw and said they were avoiding any possible ceasefire in an effort to achieve a total surrender and total disarmament.

After crushing the Christians, he said, Syria would dominate all of Lebanon, and that was very much Israel's concern. It would probably change Israel's attitude on security matters, since it came to peace negotiations.

Beirut, July 6—President Elias Sarkis told a meeting of Government leaders in Beirut today that he wanted to resign. The right-wing Phalangist radio reported that the President was "overwhelmed by his slanders against heavy Syrian shelling of the Christian areas of the capital."

The Phalangist radio said later that Mr Sarkis, himself a Christian, had suspended a resignation announcement on stipulations that Syria withdraw certain conditions which it had imposed. The radio did not elaborate.

Later the official Lebanese radio said President Assad of Syria had asked Mr Sarkis to stay or to resign. Mr Sarkis said Syria would provide all possible support for Lebanon.—Reuters and UPI

Our Washington Correspondent writes: President Carter and the State Department took the unusual course today of issuing a concerted appeal for an end to the new outbreak of violence in Beirut. They urged "maximum restraint" on all parties to end the fighting as quickly as possible.

Michael Hornsby writes from Bremen: "ERC heads of government here for a two-day summit conference, expressed their support for the President and the Government of Lebanon 'in their efforts to restore peace and security throughout the whole of the Lebanon'."

Dung hurled at MPs in Ulster protest

By Fred Emery
Political Editor
Three bags of horse dung were hurled into the Chamber of the House of Commons from the Strangers' Gallery yesterday amid shouts of protest over prison conditions in Northern Ireland. MPs dodged as they burst on government benches and splattered over the despatch box and as far as the steps of the Speaker's chair. No one was hurt.

Proceedings on the Scotland Bill continued with marvellous aplomb as a man and a woman were seized. They continued to shout as they were bundled out.

The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, suspended the session for about twenty minutes for the mess to be cleared away.

Later he issued a statement: "I have to inform the House that a man and a woman were taken into custody by the Sergeant at Arms in connection with the recent disturbance in the gallery this afternoon. I take a serious view of this and I have directed that they be given into the custody of the civil police."

The last shout, "free the Irish political prisoners," was heard as attendants tried to gag the protesters as they were escorted out. It raised the question of whether there was any connection between the demonstration and protests reported under way by Irish prisoners in jails in Britain.

Any connexion or any prior knowledge of the Commons demonstration was later denied by supporters of the Irish prisoners. They were holding a news conference last night in a room off Westminster Hall, but they gave news of hunger strikes and demonstrations by what they termed "Irish political prisoners" in British top-security jails and of other demonstrations in their support in London yesterday.

Mr Tam Dalyell, the veteran Labour anti-devolutionist, was on his feet at the time of the incident raising a point of order about handling the Lords' amendments to the Bill. He stood his ground and kept speaking as his papers were scattered. Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolton, showed by his slanders how well he has recovered from his recent illness.

A third bag burst close to the government front bench, where Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the House, and Mr John Smith, Minister of State, Privy Council, the minister managing the measure, were preparing to explain procedures for the guillotine on the Scotland Bill.

After the suspension, Mr Francis Pym, Conservative spokesman on devolution, called out "the Opposition stood". But he was wrong. Mr Ian Gove, Conservative MP for Eastbourne was sitting under the flight path of one of the bags and was seen taking off his jacket and shaking it.

After the ribaldry over the incident, MPs were soberly reflecting that the missiles might have been more deadly. It seems certain that party leaders will call for a security review.

Miss Yana Mintoff, aged 26, a teacher, and Mr John McSherry, 24, unemployed, both of Aston Street, Stepney, London, are to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court this morning.

Prisoners' campaign, page 2
Parliamentary report, page 12

Cardinal speaks of Church's unity at Sir Thomas More ceremony MP clerics protest at Mass in Palace of Westminster

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster
In the best spirit of Christian unity, the Rev Ian Paisley and his fellow cleric from Northern Ireland, the Rev Robert Bradford, were allowed yesterday to make their protest at the start of the historic ceremony in the Crypt Chapel of the Palace of Westminster to commemorate the fifth centenary of the birth of Sir Thomas More.

As Big Ben struck 12 o'clock, and Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, walked out before the altar to begin what was believed to be the first Roman Catholic Mass to be celebrated in the palace since the Reformation, Mr Paisley jumped up from his seat to begin his protest. There was no

fuss or uproar, the cardinal waited, and Mr Paisley, in as quiet and calm a setting as he has probably ever experienced, launched into his well prepared tirade.

"Before this service proceeds," he said, "I want to make a protest in the name of Jesus Christ the great king, and head of the Church. You cannot reverse 400 years of history in this service today."

Then, quoting from the thirty-first of the 39 Articles, Mr Paisley thundered that the Mass was a blasphemous fable and a dangerous deceit.

Mr Bradford repeated much of the same, also describing the Mass as a blasphemous heresy against the Articles of the national church.

The only counterblast while

the protest was going on came from Mr Robert Malish, the Government's ebullient former chief whip, who shouted: "Rubbish!" "Typical of a papal court," Mr Paisley remarked afterwards.

With that off their chests, the two Northern Irish MPs walked out of the chapel into Westminster Hall, where they continued to talk at great length to anyone who would listen about the dangers of the nation becoming Roman Catholic by conspiracy rather than in public debate.

Later, after the Mass, as Cardinal Hume entered Westminster Hall to cheer from a large crowd of holidaymakers visiting the exhibition to mark the fiftieth anniversary of full voting rights for women, he remarked that he thought the protest had gone off "rather well".

In the rough and tumble of public life, the cardinal said, that was the kind of thing that happened. Mr Paisley and Mr Bradford felt that they had a point to make and they made it, he added.

Standing over the plaque in Westminster Hall marking the spot on which Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England and Speaker of the House of Commons, was condemned to death in 1535, and next to another plaque where Sir Winston Churchill lay in state in 1965, he told a questioner that he did not think the protest had harmed the moves towards church unity. But, he added, the protest showed how much we needed to pray for unity.

In his address during the Mass, which was attended by

EEC heads agree to review farm spending

From Michael Hornsby
and Peter Norman
Bremen, July 6
The Franco-German plan for greater monetary cooperation in Europe came under critical scrutiny for the first time from other members of the European Community here tonight.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the French President, unfolded their ideas for promoting currency stability to their fellow leaders over a formal dinner in Bremen's Gothic town hall.

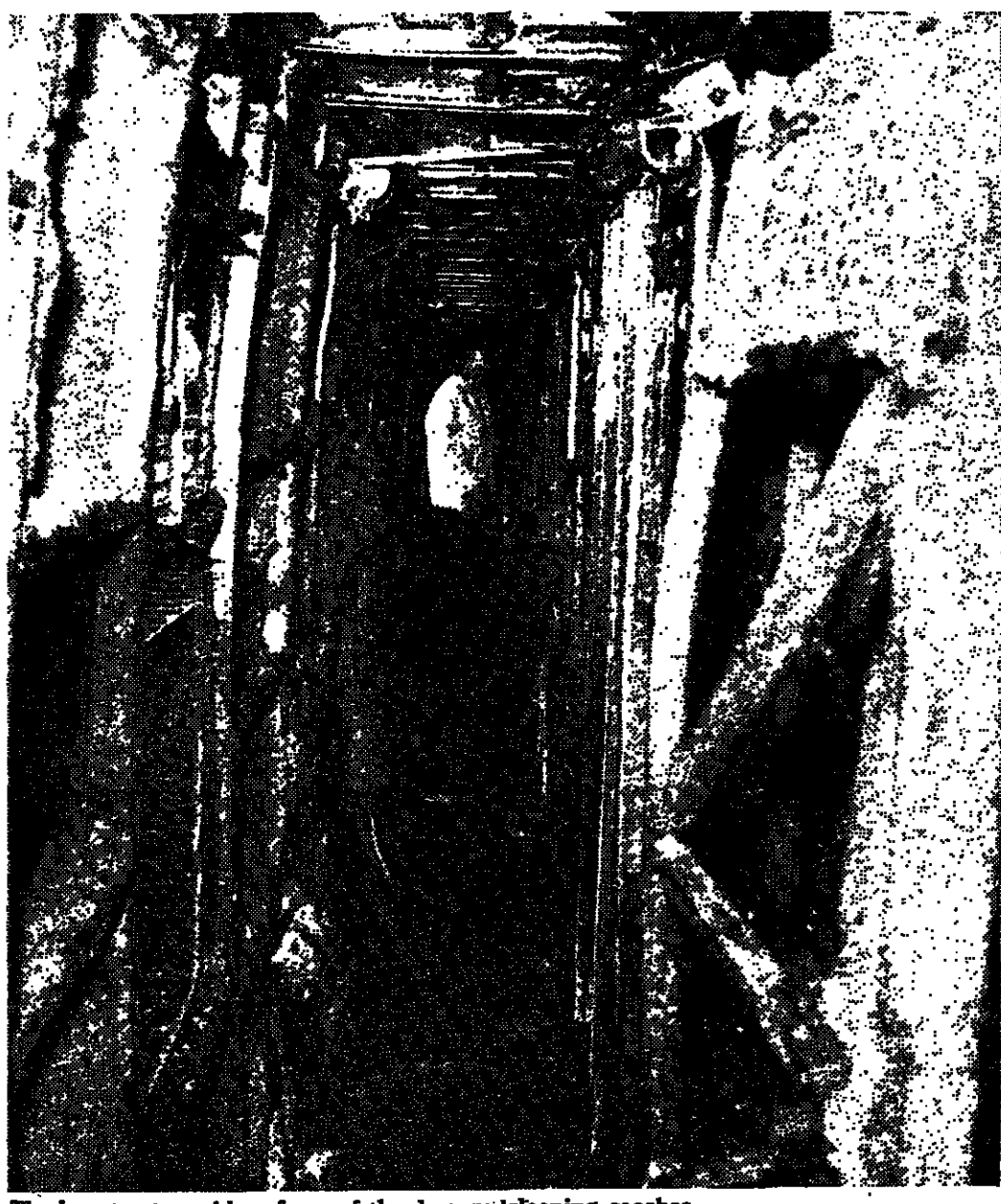
Although Herr Schmidt and President Giscard have worked out a fairly comprehensive new currency system for Europe, German government sources emphasized that they were not expecting agreement on a detailed plan to emerge at this meeting.

If the monetary discussions looked problematic, the heads of government found themselves in surprising agreement that something must at last be done to curb the waste caused by the Community's Common Agricultural Policy.

Mr James Callaghan was not challenged when he described the policy as "the cuckoo in the nest" gobbling 75 per cent of the resources available from the EEC budget. The European Commission was charged with the task of preparing a thorough review of farm spending for discussion at the next summit in December.

Although the issue was raised by Italy it was seized on by the British who contend that any move towards currency union must be linked to a substantial transfer of resources from the strong to the weak regions of the Community.

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The burnt-out corridor of one of the damaged sleeping coaches.

that a passenger smoking in bed might have been responsible was becoming less likely.

The seat of the fire was in a top bunk in a second-class sleeper berth in the centre section of the first coach, which was separated from the locomotive by the mail van. All the casualties occurred among the 31 people sleeping in the first two coaches.

Most of the eight men and three women who died were overcome by a slow build-up of smoke and flames.

One of the two coaches was destroyed by flames fuelled by plastic and wood fittings and bedding.

Each of the coaches on the train has four doors, two at each end. The main windows in

the sleeping compartments are double-glazed and cannot be opened.

The door of a mail van next to one of the blazing coaches was locked. But that was routine security practice, Mr William Bradshaw British Rail's chief operating manager, said in a BBC radio interview.

Of suggestions that the other doors of the sleeping cars might have been locked, he said: "If they were locked, and I really cannot say whether they were or not, they ought not to have been. It is our policy that doors leading outwards are left unlocked."

Firemen found that their work was made more difficult because many passengers had locked themselves in their compartments. Axes had to be used to smash doors and windows to gain access.

There was shock and surprise last night over the first fatal fire involving British Rail passengers for 28 years. Five people died in a daytime Glasgow express in June, 1950, more than 20,000 million passenger journeys ago, probably through a carelessly discarded match or cigarette.

In 1940 on the Penzance-London line an overnight sleeper was derailed at Norton Fitzwarren, three miles from Taunton. Twenty-seven people died.

A private local inquiry will open at Bristol today.

Aid for victims and more photographs, page 2

Miners' delegates reject further pay curbs

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Torquay
Delegates to the annual conference of the National Union of Mineworkers at Torquay yesterday rejected any further wage restraint. The union will now seek to win over the TUC conference to its militant stand.

The miners voted without dissent to approve a motion from the left-wing South Wales contingent opposing extension of the social contract.

Miners' leaders are to use that decision as the basis for a resolution to the TUC calling for the Labour movement to end collaboration over wage curbs. They will almost certainly be supported by the powerful Transport and General Workers' Union, the train drivers and other traditionally militant unions.

Proposing the removal of government restrictions on wage bargaining and a reestablishment of socialist priorities, Mr Emyln Williams, president of the South Wales miners and a member of the Labour Party national executive, said: "I hope the Government will accept that we are talking to them on this occasion as friends."

"It has been said that we are loyal. I believe this word has been prostituted, like the word 'democracy'. But there are things we must say. If they are our friends, they must listen. Loyalty is two-sided."

"We do not want confrontation. We merely wish to return to free collective bargaining, and have the right to negotiate."

"We will negotiate responsibly, but not with the Government prepared to take cognizance of the IMF and forget socialism."

The miners have drawn up a 40 per cent claim that would increase the basic rate from £7.8 to £11.0 a week from next March. The National Coal Board estimates that that would cost at least £480m a year if conceded in full and put £4 a ton on the pithead price of coal.

Mr Joseph Gormley, the union's moderate president, has privately indicated that the figures in the claim are negotiable. But the political opposition to further extension of the social contract was more forcibly expressed yesterday than at any policy-making conference since Labour took office after the miners' last big strike.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, recalled that Mr Gormley had said in his presidential address that the union would oppose anybody standing in the way of its objectives.

Mr Scargill continued: "I am sick and tired of the hypocrisy of the trade union movement, including those in our own union, who are prepared to accept policies under a Labour Administration that would be totally unacceptable under the Tories."

2,000 jobs to go in PLA plan to shut Royal Docks

By Michael Bailly
Closure of the Royal Docks by this time next year, redundancy for about 2,000 of the Port of London's 8,500 work-force, and £60m state aid were recommended to the Government yesterday after two months of consultation.

The remaining upper dock, the smaller India and Millwall, will be retained for a further period under strictly monitored conditions to see if it can fulfil union claims and attract more traffic to pay its way.

There was a mixed response from the unions with some talk of a national dock strike but generally a more cautious note and an even more cautious response from the Government.

Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said: "The Government has made no decision of any kind about the future of the Port of London. Ministers have not even considered the alternatives and will not do so until they have had time to study the proposals of the PLA."

"At that stage the Government will take all economic, social and environmental factors into account in deciding how best to help."

Sir John Cuckney, the PLA chairman, said last night: "We are proposing to close only one dock in the near future, partly because this would give dockland more time to adjust to the social and environmental effects of the reduction in port work on the upper river and partly to see if, together with the trade unions, we can make the upper dock pay."

"This will demand a radical improvement in productivity, marketing, and working practices generally, and will require in the India and Millwall Docks a 40 to 50 per cent increase in traffic above that currently handled in both upper docks for viability to be achieved."

If however the Government considers a speedier return to viability, an essential prerequisite to providing financial assistance, there is no alternative, but to implement our original so-called radical approach, involving a double dock closure as soon as possible."

Christopher Thomas writes: An imminent official dockers' strike over the future of Royal Docks, has been ruled out. Union leaders are acutely aware of the damage it could inflict on Labour's electoral chances.

The real danger lies in unofficial action, but the unions were last night still managing to contain the mood of militancy.

Lufthansa to buy newest airbus

Lufthansa, the German airline, has boosted efforts to build up the European aircraft industry by signing a memorandum of understanding to buy 25 of the new version of the European A300 airbus. The preliminary contract is worth £129m. The decision will renew pressure on Britain to take a decision on whether to join the airbus consortium as a full partner Page 19

Ghana detainees freed

Lieutenant-General Akuffo, Ghana's new military ruler, is releasing about 40 politicians jailed by his predecessor, General Acheampong, who was ousted on Wednesday. The move is believed to be the first in a planned series which could eventually restore civilian rule Page 8

Check on car dealers

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, is starting a campaign against car dealers and garages who cheat the public. He said he had written to chief trading standards officers in 24 areas where the activities of 'rogue' traders were causing particular concern Page 4

"Buy British" call: Local authority chief executives are urged to buy British Page 2

Polaris submarines: Rosyth Dockyard workers stop movement of two Polaris submarines in support of a national pay claim Page 3

Moscow: Mr Gromyko rejects Western accusations that Russia has broken détente agreements Page 8

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Lord Marples dies

Lord Marples, who as Mr Ernest Marples was Conservative MP for Wallasey from 1945 to 1974 and a former Postmaster General, died in Monte Carlo as Minister for Transport. He guided the expansion of Britain's motorway programme and introduced parking meters and traffic wardens. He was 70. Obituary, page 18

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HOME NEWS

Councils urged to buy British and help industry

From Our Local Government Correspondent Bournemouth

The exhortation "Buy British" was aimed firmly at local authorities yesterday by Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. He was addressing the conference, at Bournemouth, of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

Emphasizing the important part that local government could play in Britain's economic revival by supporting industry, he said: "Obviously I am not asking local authorities to buy goods that are not good value for money. Nor am I asking local authorities to ignore our international obligations. What I am saying is that it is in the interests of us all for local authorities to build up the closest working relationships possible with their United Kingdom suppliers."

It might, for example, be possible to extend the degree to which local authorities are binned to purchase bulk items. In that way more efficient production and purchasing could be achieved. "By serving you better, British companies would be helping to make a success of the industrial strategy and helping to restore the

competitiveness of the manufacturing base on which we all depend", he said.

Mr Varley, whose address was read in his absence on parliamentary business, said the requirements of industry must be constantly reviewed. "Industrialists need to be confident that their problems are being dealt with sympathetically by their local authority."

Earlier, the conference had heard criticism of the operations of the Manpower Services Commission, whose chairman, Mr Richard O'Brien, addressed the delegates. Mr Clifford Smith, chief executive of Suffolk County Council, complained, with strong support from his fellow chief executives, that the money allocated to councils for job programmes was restricted to projects that might be desirable but were not essential.

Constraint on local government spending meant that councils could not recruit the teachers or the police cadets they needed.

Mr O'Brien told the delegates that the high level of unemployment was likely to remain for the next five years. "We are trying to do something about it", he added.

Noise council hopes to simplify measurements

By Robert Parker

The Noise Advisory Council, which advises the Government on noise, yesterday published a technical document which it hoped will help to simplify the complex and confusing methods of measuring different types of noise.

If standardization can be achieved, the council and the Department of the Environment hope for a much improved enforcement of noise codes and regulations.

It is felt that the present complicated system is one reason why noise limits are often not met or enforced.

The report, by the working party for the technical sub-committee of the council, suggests that all noise measurement levels (noise received by the hearer) should be measured in equivalent continuous level, denoted as Leq. That measure, which is in units of

decibels, takes into account the level and the duration of noise.

At the moment, aircraft noise is measured in the so-called noise number index; road traffic noise in something called L₁₀, a kind of arithmetic average over a period of 18 hours; and factory noise or noise from fixed installations in corrected noise level.

Some forms of noise, such as that inside factories, is measured in Leq. The council's report suggests that in the short term people involved in measurement or control should try to think and work in terms of Leq, in place of whatever other measurement they are used to.

If that proves possible, it is hoped that the longer term use of Leq as the standard measure for all forms of noise. "A Guide to Measurement and Prediction of the Equivalent Continuous Level Leq" (Stationery Office, £1.25).

Residents leave beds to aid train victims

By Staff Reporters

Passengers who escaped after a fire broke out on the night sleeper train from Penzance to London spoke of panic breaking out as they struggled to reach safety.

Mr Brian Nightingale, of Plymouth, said: "I was sleeping in my bunk in the first compartment and woke up to find the room boiling hot. Breathing was difficult and I tried desperately to smash the window but failed. When I got out into the corridor the flames just shot out at me. 'Someone had the good sense to keep on shouting, 'Get down and crawl'. My hair and hands were burning and I must have passed out. The next thing I remember is being on the side of the track."

Another passenger, Mr Stanley Parsons, said: "It was absolute chaos. The lights had failed and there was thick smoke everywhere. People were collapsing on the floor. Someone smashed a window and we climbed out."

Before the emergency services arrived, neighbours living close by had striven to save the passengers. Miss Sandra Horne woke up to see the train blazing a few yards from her front door. She used a ladder to scale

a high fence before running to assist people.

One man who did not appear to be badly injured died as he was receiving treatment in her house, she said.

Her neighbour, Mr Keith Jacobs, spoke of flames shooting into the air as dazed passengers, some in their underwear, scrambled under the train to safety.

One possible answer to the question why no alarm was raised on the train until the fire had taken a firm hold was that faulty wiring had been smouldering for some time, perhaps asphyxiating some passengers.

Ten of the 11 people who died were named last night as Mr Ronald Gordon Cornish, of Torpoint, Plymouth; Mr Gary Charles Gelpin, of Hartley, Plymouth; Mr Trenchard Hall, his wife, Patricia, and their daughter, Mary, all of Plymouth; Mr Patrick Gerald Murden, of The Hoe, Plymouth; Mr Christopher Sharpe, of Plymouth; Mr W. J. Knight, of Cannaburn, Plymouth; and Mrs Herta Michel of Vienna. Last night one victim had still to be identified.

Of the 16 injured taken to hospital, seven were released later. An elderly woman,



Top: Firemen giving directions to a colleague in a burning carriage. Bottom right: One of the gutted sleeping compartments. Bottom left: Mr Brian Nightingale, an injured passenger, in hospital at Taunton.

believed to be Belgian, was unconscious and critically ill. Most of the injured were suffering from shock, the effects of smoke and slight burns.

The accident occurred near a residential area, and fire service officers at the scene praised local people who left their beds to help. One officer said: "They were absolutely marvellous, helping with the rescues, making tea for people and looking after the injured until the ambulances arrived."

Within a few minutes local people had pulled down a wire fence and slithered down a small, steep embankment to within a few feet of the burning coach. Some carried step ladders to help passengers out, and houses near by were soon jammed with survivors being given first aid, tea, and words of comfort.

Mr Keith Jacobs, whose house is close to the line, said he helped to tear down a fence and take a ladder to the track side.

"The train was stopped and I could see fire in the coaches. The train was in flames and there were really high flames and smoke were coming from the rear end of the first coach and it seemed that they had caught on to the second carriage."

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, said last night: "We should like to express our deep sympathy with the relatives of those who died and our hope that the injured will make a speedy recovery in hospital."

Tory views on speech by Mr Heath

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

Any suggestion that Mr Heath was less than wholehearted in his pledge to fight just as hard as his Conservative opponents for the Conservatives under Mrs Thatcher during the forthcoming election was vigorously disputed in high Conservative quarters yesterday.

When Mrs Thatcher welcomed his "warm terms", it was because they were seen as warm judged by Mr Heath's normally cool standards.

The Leader of the Opposition was depicted as delighted; it had not paid once and for all to rumours of party divisions. Mr Heath's speech at Penistone, it was insisted, had gone very much further than his speech at the Brighton party conference in 1976: he had been unequivocal.

Mr Heath, interviewed yesterday on the Jimmy Young programme on BBC 2, confirmed himself to saying that he was happy if others were. He is understood, however, to approve those reports that his speech emphasized in tandem, his support and his requirement that the Tory Party should be "broadly based".

Former colleagues insisted that he had been intent on giving a clear signal to the party that he was, as has always been his declared intention, part of the team. They wanted noted, most of all, his sharp attack on Mr Callaghan and his reference to the unwarranted complacency he said the Prime Minister exuded.

Mr Heath did deny yesterday a report that Mrs Thatcher had invited him to be head of the party's future delegation to the European Parliament, and that he had refused.

From Mrs Thatcher's side came an explanation that indicated how the approach might have been misunderstood. The chief whip, Mr Humphrey Atkins, always sounded out the views of Mr Heath on European political interests. The delegation leadership position was one such: it had been double checked with Mr Heath whether he was interested. He was not.

Paris, July 6: Lord Thorneycroft, chairman of the Conservative party, told a luncheon of the British Conservative Association in Paris today that Mr Heath's statement at Penistone would help a lot to improve the party's image, Charles Hargrave writes. He emphasized that both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heath were moderates. "The elections will not be won from the extreme right or the extreme left, but from the centre", he said.

Members of the Performing Right Society yesterday gave its council and management a resounding vote of confidence after rejecting criticism of the society by Mr Trevor Lyttelton, one of its members.

The attack comes in the first issue of the UDA's new monthly newspaper, Ulster, which criticizes politicians who "dangle the carrot of victory" in front of loyalists but later disown them serving life sentences in prison.

It adds that the UDA "will no longer be the willing tool of any aspiring or ready-made politician."

Ostensibly devoted to urging the segregation of republican and loyalist prisoners, the editorial is notable chiefly for its illustration of the gulf now existing between the UDA, the most influential of the loyalist paramilitary bodies and the unionist political establishment.

The decision to publish a new UDA newspaper comes significantly at a time when the association is taking a keener interest than ever in the idea of an independent Ulster, a cause largely ignored by official unionists.

Campaign by Irish prisoners in Britain

By Stewart Tendler

Crime Reporter

Irish prisoners in several English jails have refused food or created disturbances in support of a campaign to improve their conditions, gain recognition as political prisoners, and be housed in Northern Ireland prisons.

The Home Office said yesterday that seven prisoners at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, had refused breakfast yesterday and six more at Long Lartin had refused food on Wednesday and yesterday. At Albany, Isle of Wight, early yesterday seven prisoners broke up furniture in their cells.

In London four women were arrested for obstructing the

Keener 'loyalist' interest in independent province

From David Nicholson-Lord

The chief expression of that interest is a working group of 12 under the chairmanship of Mr Glenn Barr to investigate possible systems of government, which was set up by the UDA's inner council early this year. The group is expected to make its report later this summer and will probably recommend some form of committee system based on American

highway outside Buckingham Palace yesterday during a demonstration by relatives of the prisoners. Afterwards the Irish Political Prisoners' Support Group said further protests were expected from prisoners.

The prisoners say petty difficulties are placed in their way and that of their relatives during visits and men are subjected to excessive use of solitary confinement, supplemented by frequent physical assaults from prison staff.

They want to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland and say that "loyalist" prisoners have been allowed to do so.

The Home Office yesterday

Boyle report rises 'would mean pay cuts'

By Our Political Editor

A "substantial cut in pay" would ensue for civil servants and workers in nationalized industries if, instead of the rises they have received since 1972, they were given the top percentage rises recommended in the Boyle report.

That was claimed last night by the Government in a riposte to Labour MP's complaining about top people's rises.

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, ducked a direct answer to Mr Arthur Lewis, Labour MP for Newham, North-West, who had asked how inflation would be affected if the Boyle increases were "universally applied" to all public servants.

But he countered: "The recommendations are tailored to the very special circumstances of the groups concerned and there can be no question of the recommended increases being applied to any other group. But if they were applied to those others in the industries and services concerned in place of the increases they have received since 1972 the result would be a substantial cut in pay."

Rise in cases awaiting trial and divorce suits

By Our Legal Correspondent

The latest set of judicial statistics shows an increase in two main areas of court activity: the backlog of cases awaiting trial by jury and the number of divorce proceedings started.

In 1977 more than 57,000 cases were committed to the Crown Court, an increase of about 3,000 on the previous year. But at the end of 1977 there were 18,000 awaiting trial, an increase of nearly a third on the 1976 figure of 14,000.

The figures for the time spent by defendants before their cases came to trial bears out the proposition that the trial process is slowing. Although the figures do not show the average length

of time between commitment and trial, they clearly indicate that fewer cases were heard within eight weeks of commitment, while more defendants, in custody and on bail, had to wait more than 20 weeks.

During 1977 just over 170,000 divorce petitions were filed in England and Wales, of which two thirds were handled under the procedure that does not require a court hearing. In 1976, the number of proceedings started was 146,000, only a fifth by the quick route. The comparative figures for divorces granted were 138,000 and 130,000 respectively.

Official Statistics Annual Report 1977 (Stationery Office, £3.25).

Factions struggling for control of Bristol City

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Compared with race relations in Britain those in America seemed calm and relaxed, Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said yesterday after a study tour there. He was introducing the commission's first annual report.

In Britain, he said, frenzied discussion of immigration diverted attention from real issues. "Violent racial violence in the heart of London is an evil that must be stamped out before it spreads further."

Referring to the latest outbreak of trouble in the East End, Mr Lane said he had been

Stronger police presence urged for east London

By Peter Evans

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Rise in housing cooperatives

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Part-time principal proposal for university

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Mr James Stewart, aged clerk to the Court of Law University, should combine his present duties with those of the post left vacant by the resignation last month of Dr Glenn Willson.

That is the recommendation of a committee chaired by Frank Hartley, vice-chancellor of the university, which set up by the Senate of London University to consider the principal's responsibilities could best be met from: a part-time post, when Lord takes over as the university's first full-time salaried chancellor.

Dr Willson, who is 53, appointed principal three years ago at a salary of £14,000, resigned unexpectedly weeks ago "as a result of important difference of opinion" with the university court over his future role.

Under proposed changes the university's status as vice-chancellor, who at present has responsibility only for academic affairs, will also take over responsibility for administration. The principal is presently an unpaid university administrative head.

Some observers believed that was the reason behind Dr Willson's resignation. However, the changes in the duties had been proposed by Dr Willson was appointed, he has confirmed, that he never challenged the idea of the vice-chancellor should both administrative and academic head, as at most universities.

It is now understood that Willson was pushed into resigning by the university and that he was given a "golden handshake" of £150,000 as compensation.

Mr Geoffrey Edge, Labour MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, has written to Mr Edward Heath, Secretary of State for Education, and the Committee of Common Public Action, and the Council and Auditor General, complain about "misuse of public funds."

The Association of University Teachers is also concerned about the proposed changes and has asked the university for its comments in view of its other areas of expenditure and the freeze staff appointments.

senate committee's proposal that Mr Stewart should be principal will be put to the senate on July 19. It then have to be ratified by court.

Weather forecast and recordings

By Our Legal Correspondent

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HOME NEWS

Nurses fear loss of 8,000 positions in wards for subnormal

By John Roper
Health Services
Correspondent

The eight thousand registered and enrolled nurses caring for 60,000 patients in hospitals for the mentally handicapped should be phased out, according to a leak from the deliberations of the Jay committee, which has studied care in the hospitals for three years.

The disclosure, in *Nursing Mirror*, one of the two main journals for nurses, has led to controversy involving the committee, the Department of Health and Social Security, and organizations representing the nurses.

The Levensden group of senior nurse managers in mental handicap hospitals in Hertfordshire and surrounding counties has asked Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, for an assurance that the recommendation is untrue or that the committee's report

should be published immediately.

They say they have many profoundly handicapped patients for whom there is no place in the community. Nurses' representatives said yesterday that if the committee was making a main recommendation, even though a probable minority report might take a contrary view, the effect on morale in the service would be devastating.

Mrs Peggy Jay, the London magistrate and educationist who heads the committee, says in a letter to the *Nursing Mirror* yesterday that she is conscious of the anxieties that delay in producing the report is causing to staff. There would be a frank debate on the committee's recommendations, and she asked all nurses to base their judgment on the final report in the autumn, which would be subject to neither hearsay nor conjecture.

Talks fail to end news agency dispute

By Our Labour Staff

Talks to end a work-to-rule by 230 journalists at the Press Association, the national news agency, broke up inconclusively yesterday. Further contacts are expected today between the management and National Union of Journalists' officials.

An emergency meeting of the NUJ's national newspaper and agencies industrial council has been called for today to discuss

developments. The journalists are seeking pay parity with national newspaper journalists, which would give rise of up to £2,000 a year.

In another press dispute 40 journalists are to continue a strike at the *Richmond Herald*, *Surrey Comet* and *Middlesex Chronicle*, owned by Trident Group. The dispute is over changing the *Richmond Herald* into a give-away news-

Dockyard men halt submarines

From Our Correspondent
Dunfermline

All movement of two of Britain's four Polaris submarines has been stopped by workers at Rosyth Dockyard, Fife, in support of their national pay claim.

Mr Derek Stubbs, chairman of the trade union side of the Whitley Council, said yesterday: "All eight unions agreed to stop any movement of the submarines. The men are looking for a substantial raise on the present basic pay."

HMS Repulse, which has just completed her second 20-month refit at the yard and is due to be recommissioned tomorrow, and HMS Renown, which has just arrived for her second refuelling and refit, are affected. The dockyard said several unions taking part in the refit of the Repulse were involved in a national pay dispute. A meeting of all parties was scheduled for today. Recommissioning of the Repulse had not yet been affected.



Army fitness: The five officers seen above at the MHI HII barracks, north London, are preparing for the physical fitness tests introduced by the Army under a new "Fit to Fight" campaign last April. The Army has been relieved to find that nine out of every 10 soldiers have so far passed the stringent tests (Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, writes). Even staff officers at the Ministry of Defence have shown remarkable agility when tried from behind their telephones and overflying in-arms. So far 327 of 365 officers at the ministry have passed the six-monthly tests. The pass rate for

the Army overall is 90 per cent. Most of the 38 failures at the ministry have been among the younger officers, who have to meet tighter time schedules than those for their older colleagues. The Army has noticed a resurgence of interest in sport and general exercise since the tests began and it is hoped that the pass rate will be further improved as times goes on. Men under 40 have to cover a mile and a half in 15 minutes in a group, then immediately run a similar distance on their own in 11 to 12 minutes, according to age. Those over 40 have slightly less

demanding requirements to meet. There is also a routine for women. All under 50 have to take a test of some kind. Those who fail can try again in a week's time. If they fail again they have to undergo "remedial training" under medical supervision or run the ultimate risk of being medically downgraded, which carries a threat to career prospects. The programme reflects military concern about the sedentary life that soldiers lead in an age of mechanized, computerized warfare. The Army wants to ensure that all soldiers could cope with battlefield stress if suddenly called on to do so.

Payment for papers to get Equity card alleged

By a Staff Reporter

Equity, the actors' union, has begun an investigation into reports that large sums have been paid for forged documents by people who want to qualify for membership of the union.

Mr Peter Plouviez, general secretary of Equity, said yesterday: "Round the fringes of the entertainment industry there are inevitably a number of crooks who attempt to batten on the gullible and the stage-struck." The union was determined to stop them.

Many jobs in the acting profession are open only to Equity members. Because of the high unemployment among actors there are strict controls over entry.

However, entry is much easier for performers in clubs and cabaret. To qualify applicants have only to produce contracts to show that they have worked as professional performers.

Mr Plouviez said several instances of the use of forged contracts had come to light. "In one instance we are told that £300 was paid to someone, as yet unknown, so Equity membership could be granted to a person with no professional qualifications whatsoever."

Until the end of August the union will offer a virtual amnesty to people who have gained membership under false pretences, as long as they are willing to give details of how it was done.

Phone engineers walk out at international exchanges

The telephone engineers' dispute worsened yesterday when about 1,500 engineers who maintain the international telephone exchanges, stopped work for 24 hours.

The stoppage came after an incident at the international exchange at Edgware, north London, when 18 men were sent home for refusing to work normally. The rest of the 350 engineers at Edgware and their colleagues at the other two international exchanges in the City of London walked out.

The engineers who are taking part in an official campaign of disruptive action, will return to work today. But the 350 who work at Edgware have said that until the 18 are reinstated they will refuse to work a shift system that enables the exchange to be manned 24 hours a day.

Mr Graham Hopkins, a Post Office Engineering Union secretary at Edgware, said he be-

lieved that that action would be highly disruptive, causing increased delays and breakdowns. The engineers want a 35-hour week. They began a campaign of disruptive action in November. It was stepped up last week to include an overtime ban. Discussions are being held with both parties in an attempt to reach a settlement.

The men sent home from Edgware, an exchange serving more than 50 countries, were refusing to install five new lines to and from Saudi Arabia. Thirty-four others are in a similar situation and may also be sent home. A ban on new equipment is one sanction the engineers have been operating since November.

London members of the union are due to stage a half-day stoppage next Tuesday in support of the claim for a shorter working week. A march through London is planned.

New religious newspaper is launched

A new monthly newspaper called *Religion and Freedom* is on sale today. Its aim, it says in an editorial, is "to report on religion's involvement in the pursuit of basic freedoms all around the world, partly to open a dialogue about religion's claim to be in itself a liberating force". It is to be open to different views and is not linked with any denomination, although its editor, Mr David Kelly, is a Roman Catholic.

The first issue achieves the surprising feat of carrying both an advertisement for an official Soviet publication and an interview with Mr Yevgeni Vagin, who spent eight years in Soviet prison camps. Among the other contributions are a Soviet view of the Church of England, an anonymous account of cooperation between Christians and Muslims in Albania, a piece on church-state relations in East Germany, an excerpt from a study document by Rhodesia's Roman Catholic bishops, an article by Peter Hebblethwaite on Latin America as a laboratory for Christian-Marxist cooperation, and an article by E. C. Hodgkin on the potential contribution of religion to a Middle East settlement.

Investment urged for culture

Long-term investment in museums and galleries was urged by Professor Alan Thompson, of Heriot-Watt University, at the annual dinner of the United Kingdom Museums Association in Edinburgh last night.

He said that although the job creation programme had made an invaluable contribution there was no substitute for investment in cultural facilities.

Intentions of Children Act may be tested

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Legal action is being considered to test for the first time the intentions of the Children Act, 1975, in giving children in care the right to be consulted over their future.

The British Association of Social Workers believes there is a case for seeking an injunction against the London borough of Tower Hamlets to prevent the closure of a home and the transfer of the eight children living there to one about 14 miles away.

Tower Hamlets wants to close Kingshorpe home at Woodford because the staff accommodation there is inadequate. The staff say the alternative accommodation at another home, at Harold Hill, is inferior.

They oppose the closure principally because they maintain that the children do not want to move and have not been properly consulted. Under the Children Act, 1975, councils must consider the welfare of children and consult them to find their views so far as is consonant with their age.

"We are talking about children between the ages of 12 and 16 who can clearly express their own views", Mr Jeremy Burns, assistant general secretary of the association, said last night. "We are taking legal advice on whether we can seek an injunction to prevent the local authority from closing the home and moving the children until proper consultation has taken place."

Tower Hamlet council stated last night that the children have said they wanted to stay together and in the same area. The council could comply with the first wish, but not with the second because it had no alternative accommodation locally.

Sotheby's, London, at 11 a.m. precisely.

In the tense, crowded atmosphere of the Main Gallery, Peter Wilson, the Chairman of Sotheby's, is taking a sale.

He orchestrates the bidding with unerring skill, yet the atmosphere that he creates is surprisingly informal.

"I don't believe auctions should be pompous affairs," he says. "I see myself as a sort of amiable croupier."

Peter Wilson has officiated at over 1,500 sales, but the excitement and the preparation involved has never changed.

He makes it a firm rule never to auction an item without having first acquainted himself with it, be its potential value £50 or £50,000. Since he has been with Sotheby's, it has grown from a small business employing 36 people into the undisputed centre of the art world, holding auctions in New York,

Monte Carlo, Hong Kong and Zurich, and a total staff of over one thousand — no small achievement when you consider that he was originally hired on six months' trial!

Peter Wilson reckons that he spends a quarter of each year travelling to and from Sotheby's offices around the world, so time-keeping is obviously critically important to him.

The watch he wears is a Rolex Datejust.

"I'm afraid that I'm not mechanically minded," he confesses, "but I appreciate excellence in craftsmanship, no matter in what field it is applied."

On the subject of Rolex and time-keeping, it is no

coincidence that in every Sotheby's catalogue you'll find the time of the sale is described as 11 a.m....precisely.

ROLEX
of Geneva



Pictured: The Rolex Datejust, available in 18ct. gold or stainless steel, with matching bracelet.

For further information on the complete range of Rolex watches and the address of your nearest Rolex Jeweller, write to: The Rolex Watch Company Limited, 1 Green Street, London, W1Y 4JY.

Four jailed over £500,000 blackmail attempt

Four men whose unsuccessful attempt at blackmailing a bank manager for £500,000 by threatening to harm his wife and young children were jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge Gwyn Morris, QC, described it as a "diabolical scheme combining blackmail with robbery and imprisoning a wife in her own home".

Peter Neophytou, aged 24, of Avondale Road, South Tottenham; his brother Gabriel, aged 22, of Kameck Road, Tottenham; and Robert Essex, aged 24, of Nurbrook, Peckham, all London, were each sentenced to eight years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to robbing Mr John Paouros, a bank manager, of £50,000, assaulting and detaining Mrs Marie Paouros against her will, making a £500,000 blackmail

demand on Mr Paouros, and having an imitation firearm.

Mr Essex also pleaded guilty to stealing a police warrant card which he used to gain entry to Mr Paouros's house in Arlington Road, Southgate, for which he was given a 12-month concurrent sentence.

Richard Taylor, aged 22, of Kenneth Robbins House, was sentenced to nine years' jail after being found guilty of blackmailing Mr Paouros, assaulting Maria Paouros and detaining her against her will, and robbing Mr Paouros.

Bassam Mehmet, aged 24, a restaurant manager, of Linford Road, Camberwell, London, was acquitted of dishonestly receiving £4,130 and was discharged.

Mr Taylor's mother, Mrs Doris Taylor, of Wellesley Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, and her lover, Herbert Brown, aged 55, of the same address, were bound over for two years after pleading guilty to dishonestly receiving £15,850.



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make the Authorised Distributor an extension of Rolls-Royce Motors itself.

An impression that is strengthened by the fact that some 20% of Distributors have dealt in Rolls-Royce motor cars for fifty years or more. And by the team of Rolls-Royce service engineers that is always at the disposal of Distributors to help sort out particularly knotty problems.

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The quality of service provided by the Authorised Distributor is a major reason why, in 1978, it is believed that more than half

the Rolls-Royce cars built since 1904 are still on the road.

Whether your interest is in a new or used Rolls-Royce—or simply in the best care in the world for the one you already own, please refer to the list opposite.



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HOME NEWS

Labour proposals for reforming local government will be presented to party conference

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday published its proposals to return powers to the large district councils and to replace county councils by a system of elected regional authorities and "most-purpose" district councils.

The proposals are contained in a policy statement by the national executive committee and will be presented to the annual party conference in October. The document, *Local Government Reform in England*, is a result of four years' work by the party's regional and local government subcommittee.

The proposals come at a time when Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, is considering the return of certain functions to the largest district councils under his policy for "organic change" in the structure of local government. His suggestions for such limited changes have been consistently criticized by the Association of County Councils.

The party document calls for the immediate transfer of social services, non-strategic structure planning, highways, traffic management, libraries, consumer protection and possibly other services from the counties to the non-metropolitan district councils with a population of 100,000 or more.

It argues that the worst features of the present system are the "illogical division of personal services between the two tiers of local government outside the metropolitan areas, the duplication and overlapping

of responsibility for planning and recreation and the unnecessary remoteness of county government in cities which are perfectly capable of running most services from their own town halls."

Although it describes education as a personal service that should logically be provided everywhere, by large district councils, the document doubts whether most districts with populations between 100,000 and 200,000 are big enough to sustain an efficient education service. It does, however, say that consideration should be given to the possibility of transferring responsibility of education to the nine largest districts with a population of 200,000 and more.

Further into the future, the document envisages a new structure in which all personal and essentially local community services would be the responsibility of district councils based on the natural catchment area. The county councils would be dissolved and elected regional authorities would take over responsibility for economic planning in the wider sense and certain other services from the counties, from the ad hoc bodies and from regional outposts of central government. The new most-purpose districts would be larger than most of the present district councils, and emphasis is placed on the need for parish and urban councils to express community opinion.

The document recognizes the difficulty of implementing such a radical change in the system, the disruption it would undoubtedly cause and the need to provide

more understanding and support for elected regional authorities. "In much of the country there is little sympathy or even understanding of what is proposed and the regions would seem artificial and unreal to the regional electors."

It makes no proposals on the immediate future of the structure of the National Health Service but says that its future structure, now being considered by a royal commission, will be closely bound up with the future structure of regional administration and local government. Accordingly it asks the royal commission to produce an interim report on the structure so that the party can make definite proposals for the future.

Sir Duncan Lock, chairman of the Association of District Councils, commenting yesterday on the Labour Party's long-term proposals for reconstructing local government to include the establishment of larger councils and directly elected regional authorities, said: "Such steps as are suggested are the very antithesis—a negation—of local democracy."

The setting up of larger authorities and especially large regional authorities would take local government and decision-making farther away from the people. It would make local authorities more remote from those they are there to serve.

"We support the present county-district structure and wish to see it maintained, but we are convinced that the mechanics of its operation need urgent improvement," he said. Leading article, page 17

Britain's private police, 3: Self-regulating controls or licensing Security firms await Home Office document

By Dan van der Vat

The image of the security guard, projected in some bilingually funny television sketches by Mr Benny Hill as a baggy-trousered recidivist with cap askew and no idea of the whereabouts of the main gate, contains just enough truth to bolster public prejudice and misgivings.

Others think of helmeted Martians wielding pickaxe handles and obstructing the pavement as boxes of money are manhandled into banks. In fact, security guards nowadays eschew weapons of any kind, even truncheons, because they are worse than useless (and because the courts define them as offensive weapons). Almost the entire industry regards firearms as anathema.

Most of the industry is also in favour of controls that would raise training standards, improve reliability and put the unscrupulous exploiters of the apparently insatiable demand for private security out of business. The discussion document being prepared by the Home Office is intended to provide the basis for a decision on how to control the trade.

The debate on controls has been going on for several years, and there are many points of view inside and outside the industry. One of the main issues is whether the industry should regulate itself or whether it should be subjected to external licensing.

Two men who quite clearly have little time for each other have become the principal proponents of these two alternatives. On the left is Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, who introduced a private member's Bill last year

aimed at licensing. On the right is Mr John Wheeler, prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for the City of Westminster, Paddington, and director-general of the British Security Industry Association (BSIA), who favours self-regulating by the industry.

Mr Wheeler would add yet another layer of bureaucracy to all the rest in Britain and would raise issues that have not even begun to be thought through. His idea is to give the BSIA a charter enabling it to impose controls on all security companies.

Mr George favours a licensing authority under government auspices, with the industry, the police, the unions and other interested parties taking part.

He thinks the industry is too diverse for any other solution to be effective. Licensing should be made to cover not only the 67 companies in the BSIA but also individual operatives, such as the guards directly employed by many companies to look after "in-house" security.

I interviewed both men at length and found they agreed on rather more than either seemed prepared to give the other credit for. The differences between them could in most cases be reduced to temperament and emphasis rather than substance. There was a striking similarity in their overall assessments of the industry's difficulties: low prices imposed by the market causing low pay, inadequate training standards and low public esteem, and too many loopholes in the law to prevent abuses.

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of the BSIA and chairman and managing director of Securicor, the largest company, thinks statutory backing for the BSIA would be the best solution, but clearly would not resist licensing if it were imposed. "The real justification for control of the industry is not so much in stopping the 'cowboys' but in assisting it to raise standards."

Mr Jürgen Philip-Sørensen, chairman and managing director of Group 4, Britain's second largest security company, started advocating licensing publicly in 1971. He told me that his company would do all it could to help the Home Office inquiry. "I greet the news that a consultative paper is to be published with great delight," he said. "I regard it as a response to years of lobbying in many quarters."

To be effective, any licensing system would have to take into account the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, which expunges a wide range of offences from a person's record after a given number of years. Related to that is the vexed question of access to criminal records as a means of screening applicants to security companies, a possibility the civil liberties lobby views with horror.

A compromise, advanced by the industry and supported by Mr George, might be the system favoured by several Continental countries, whereby a candidate for a "sensitive" job is asked to go to the police himself and obtain certification that he is not known to have anything against him that would adversely affect his application. Mr George sees the drawbacks involved in the strict screening he

regards as essential, but for him it is a case of balancing civil liberty against the needs of society. "After all, nobody is obliged to apply for a job as a security guard," he said.

One immediate result of effective controls would be a sharp increase in costs to clients. Mr Smith made the interesting point that companies that "create temptation" by assembling large quantities of valuable assets in a factory for profit should themselves pay to protect them, rather than allowing others to do it for them.

The industry, the unions and Mr George, in his role as chief watchdog, all agree that raising standards means raising pay, and therefore, costs. I detected no insincerity when all concerned expressed strong support for controls, regardless of cost.

Mr Harry Coleman, partner in Hawk Security Services, of Hounslow, London, which is not in the BSIA but devotes much effort to training its 161 guards, summed it up: "We need a better type of men but we cannot afford to pay them so they leave or refuse a job. We cannot afford higher pay because clients will not pay the real price of good security. All that is purely selfish on my part. It is in our own interests to do it right."

Meanwhile the industry grows and grows, unable to prove its true value in preventing fire as well as crime, distrusted by the police and convinced that it could do better if only it were allowed to. The case for control has passed beyond argument. Concluded

Eight-week course for school governors

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government has given the Open University a grant of £90,000 to produce a training programme for school governors and managers. The course, which will cost about £6 an enrollee six hours' study a week for eight weeks, will be offered for the first time in October, 1979.

Welcoming the programme, Mrs Shirley Wining, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that although there had been considerable support for the recommendations in the Taylor report on school governors, there had been widespread support for the basic idea that training for teachers should have the right to electing members of governing bodies of schools.

She had already made clear her intention to introduce legislation to give effect to the plan.

One of the main recommendations of the Taylor report, published last September, was that all governors should have a short period of initial training and thereafter should receive continuing in-service training. Governors should be encouraged to undertake a range of activities, including local training activities, it said.

The government grant will not only help to pay for the course but will also cover the cost of a three-year research project on the effectiveness of the course. A group of enquiries will be followed through their studies, observed in action on governing bodies, and interviewed in depth.

Boy of 15 convicted of killing frail woman

A boy aged 15 was ordered by Mr Justice Smith at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to be detained for five years after a jury had convicted him of the manslaughter of a woman of 74. The boy, of Ovenden Green, Halifax, West Yorkshire, was found not guilty of murdering Mrs Elizabeth Rickerby, of The Bungalows, Ovenden Green. He denied manslaughter but pleaded guilty of burglary.

A boy of 14, of Ovenden Close, Halifax, who, on the direction of the judge, had been found not guilty of murder and wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, also pleaded guilty to burglary. The judge made a supervision order for three years.

Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the

prosecution, said the two boys broke into the bungalow where Mrs Rickerby lived. She was frail and something of a recluse. The elder boy had struck her eight times on the head with heavy piece of wood but he body was not found for eight days. Nothing was stolen.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, for the defence of the 15-year-old, said a social inquiry report described him as honest, industrious, quiet, almost solitary, of great physical strength and yet very gentle. Despite a not altogether easy background he had achieved unqualified success and esteem, the report said.

Mr Gerald Coles, QC, for the other boy said a report described him as emotionally immature and lacking wisdom.

Appeal to Lords by 'Johnny Go Home' team

By Our Transport Correspondent

John Willis and John Deakin, producers of the television documentary film *Johnny Go Home* and authors of the book of the same name, who are facing criminal libel proceedings launched by Mr Roger Gleave, were given leave yesterday to appeal to the House of Lords against a magistrate's refusal to admit evidence about Mr Gleave's character. Mr Gleave featured in the film and book.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for the two authors, told the House of Lords Appeal Committee that the refusal of Mrs Audrey Frisby, sitting at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, London, to admit the evidence raised a point of law of the greatest importance.

"Unless evidence of reputation can be admitted, any convicted criminal who is referred to on television as having committed a grave criminal offence can go to a magistrate and claim he had been criminally libelled," he said.

Brighton-Dieppe hydrofoil will start in spring

By Our Transport Correspondent

A Jetfoil service to operate between Brighton and Dieppe, the spring will travel from London to Paris in 5½ hours, a peak-season single fare of £12. The 50 mph craft will seat 22 passengers.

Similar to that operating between London and Zeebrugge and another planned for Liverpool and Dublin, it will make the Channel crossing in just over 90 minutes, with connections by train to London and Paris.

The £6m Boeing craft is being bought by London financial institutions believed to include Guinness, Mahon and Harcourt, to be chartered to a new organization called SeaJet Ferries.

Dr Oliver Widdowson, its chairman, an Irish mining engineer, nuclear physicist, entrepreneur and former Rugby Union international, said yesterday that the company would have an initial capital of £2m. It expects to carry 50,000 passengers in its first full year and to take a second craft in the second year.

Seal cull to go ahead in Scottish waters

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

A further seal cull in Scottish waters beginning in October was announced yesterday as part of the strategy to halve grey seal numbers by 1982. The Scottish Office said licences were to be issued to shoot 900 adult breeding females and their pups and 4,000 moulted pups in Orkney and North Ronald.

The cull will be carried out under contract by a Norwegian Company and by local hunters from Orkney and the Western Isles. It will be strictly supervised.

Counts had shown that grey seals in Scottish waters, reckoned to be the largest colony in the world, have risen from about 35,000 in the mid-1960s to about 60,000. The cull was justified mainly by the increasing damage done by seals to a diminishing fish stock. One seal was estimated to eat 15 lb of fish a day, which adds up to between a twentieth and a tenth of the total United Kingdom catch, or £12m of fish a year.

According to advice from the Sea Mammal Research Unit, the best method of reducing the

loss to fisheries was to return to the seal levels of the mid-1960s by a cull over each of the next five years.

Grey seals have been accused of causing three kinds of damage: they maraud and fixed salmon nets, taking the fish trapped there and damaging the nets. They have a serious impact on the amount of fish available to catch, since the stocks are declining dramatically, yet the seal's appetites remain as heavy as ever.

Seals are also host to a parasitic worm that attacks cod, increasing the processing costs or making the fish look so unpleasant that it loses value. In some breeding sites pressure on space creates fighting and distress among the seals, but the worst damage is that in Orkney and the Western Isles sites are so plentiful that there is no overcropping.

No concessions are to be made for the seal sanctuary on the Orkney island of Riddle Linga, owned by the Ferne Animal Trust, which has objected strongly to the cull, contending that it is unnecessary and threatening to a rare species.

Correction

The secretary of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust is Mr Denis D. Huchings, not Mr David Huchings as stated in a Special Report on Tideland Waterways on June 28. Mr David Huchings was responsible for the restoration of the Stratford-on-Avon Canal.

Dr E. H. Carr profile

Peter Scott presents a profile in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today of E. H. Carr, diplomat, journalist, and historian, who will publish the final part of his *History of Soviet Russia* this autumn.

The Priority of Priorities

is to save thousands of babies from needless handicap

If you're born British, you could be a born loser.

Most British babies are born perfectly healthy. But thousands are not. They face a lifetime of being handicapped. And worse still, many need never have been handicapped at all.

Our Government is aware that it is possible by specific preventive measures to reduce the incidence of severe mental handicap. And that's true of spasticity too. The £4 million research which The Spastics Society funded shows that of the 2000 babies born annually with cerebral palsy or similar handicaps, 40% need never have been handicapped at all.

So what's to be done? We as a Nation need to practise what we preach—that prevention is better than cure. This is what we call THE PRIORITY OF PRIORITIES.

The first priority is to apply the results of research and good practice throughout the National Health Service and private medicine. The second priority is to finance further research to ensure ultimately that all our babies are born free of handicap.

WHY MORE RESEARCH IS URGENTLY REQUIRED

- 1 Why does the incidence of infant death and handicap differ from area to area? Research is urgently required into this problem.
- 2 More research must be undertaken into the production of less expensive delivery room equipment, and into defects of staff training.
- 3 More research is needed into the problems of how, why and where cerebral palsy occurs.
- 4 More research needs to be carried out in the field of human genetics.
- 5 More research is needed into the causes of prematurity and low birth-weight in babies, as such babies are always at risk.
- 6 More research is needed into the management and causes of oxygen deprivation, which potentially is one of the most crippling hazards of childbirth.
- 7 More research is needed into the complex factors involved in maternal malnutrition.
- 8 More research is required into the treatment, education and quality of life of spastic people.

The Spastics Society



The wealth of our nation is the health of our babies. If Government cannot, or will not, finance the necessary research, then we must do everything possible to see that this vital work is carried out. The Spastics Society appeals to you to give generously. But it is not only your money that we ask for, but your will and determination. Together we can begin to change the face of handicap.

Make sure that all British babies are born healthy and not born losers.

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cross postal orders and cheques. ☐ Tick if receipt required.
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Also I am interested in having more information on your Save A Baby campaign. ☐ Tick if receipt required.
T31/17

حکومت پاکستان

WEST EUROPE

M Giscard consults leaders of all parties on EEC policy

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, July 6

President Giscard d'Estaing left Paris this afternoon for the European summit in Bremen, the wiser for the opinions and advice he has been given by leaders of the parties both of the Government majority and of the Opposition. They all called separately at the Elysée Palace at his request yesterday and the day before.

These all party conversations are the third of a series held since the last elections. The first were on the setting up of a "reasonable cohabitation" arrangement between the majority and the Opposition. The second were on the French disarmament plan. This time it was European policy, and the steps the Nine should take to lead Europe out of the crisis and back to some sort of monetary stability.

As was to be expected, President Giscard d'Estaing obtained unqualified support from his own Union pour la Démocratie Française (UDF) for his insistence on the need for more energetic steps to stimulate economic activity and the creation, as he explained on television last night, of "a zone of monetary stability in Europe".

France and Germany had agreed on a new system and the British Government had been closely informed of the discussions, he said.

More surprising was the qualified approval he obtained from M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, who stated as he left the Elysée Palace

that "any well thought out monetary system capable both of insuring national independence, of serving the interests of the Third World and of not confining to a few the absolute mastery of monetary channels, any effort towards a certain monetary order or stabilization or union seems to us desirable".

But from the Communists and the Gaullists, M Giscard got little support. The Communists indulged in their now standard nationalistic outbursts.

M Robert Ballanger, chairman of the parliamentary party, used his call on the President to indulge in the now ritual propaganda statement to the press on the steps of the palace. It had been a "purely formal meeting", he said. It had been the occasion to reiterate the party's "total and irreducible hostility" to the social, economic, financial and foreign policy of the President, the Government and the majority. The aim was to increase austerity and take a further step in "the subordination of France to multinationals, to the United States, to West Germany".

M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, did not breathe one word of what had gone on between him and the President. But there is good reason to believe that he welcomed any steps to stimulate economic activity and restore monetary order.

If M Giscard d'Estaing found his conversations with political leaders useful the reason is more because they took place at all than for what was said in them.



On Guard: In the shadow of a sculptured classical warrior, a West German police sharpshooter posted on the roof of Bremen town hall keeps watch as delegates to the European economic summit arrive.

Ghosts from the past return to haunt Dr Filbinger

Premier views Nazi-era acts with 'pathologically clear conscience'

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, July 6

Ghosts from the past are returning to haunt Dr Hans Filbinger, the highly conservative Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg.

Documents from the last months of the Second World War have been yielding, bit by bit, information about his activities as a young naval judge in Norway which brought repeated demands for his resignation.

Dr Filbinger's office yesterday confirmed media reports that only a few weeks before the end of the war, when it was abundantly clear to the Germans that the fighting would soon be over, Dr Filbinger participated in death sentences against four sailors who deserted and sailed their vessels to neutral Sweden. It did not disclose whether Herr Filbinger was the judge or the public prosecutor in the courts martial; he had performed both functions during this period.

Dr Filbinger has described the sentences as "phantom sentences" because the four men were known to be out of reach in Sweden and their purpose was only as a deterrent to others.

The episodes might have caused less of a stir had they not followed other, even more surprising ones. In mid-January, 1945, three and a half months before the end of the war, Dr Filbinger, as public prosecutor, demanded and got the death sentence for a sailor for desertion, then organized and supervised the execution.

It was a retrial of a case in which the sailor had originally been given eight years because the first court recognized that he had only prepared to desert, and then abandoned the idea. Dr Filbinger and the second court ignored this point.

Later, as an inmate of a British prisoner-of-war camp three weeks after the end of the war, he headed a German court martial which sentenced a sailor to six months jail because, while drunk, he had torn the swastika off his uniform and called a superior officer a "Nazi dog". The British, it seems, allowed the Germans to impose their own discipline.

These episodes have received maximum publicity due to a libel action taken by Dr Filbinger against Rolf Hochhuth, the playwright, who has controversially investigated the war-time past of other prominent figures, such as Pope Pius XII.

The court has already issued an interim injunction forbidding Herr Hochhuth and the weekly review, *Die Zeit*, to repeat that Dr Filbinger is only at large thanks to the silence of those who were close to him.

But it has allowed Herr Hochhuth's description of him as a "terrible jurist". The final ruling is expected later this month.

Dr Filbinger's position is rigid: he says he acted according to the law of the times and sees no reason why he should resign. He can point to evidence that in other cases he was able

to help the accused, at risk to himself.

Further, he maintains that he was a convinced anti-Nazi and belonged to the "spiritual resistance", though statements by contemporaries and his own writings from the period cast doubts on this claim. For many Germans, however, the point of the case was, as *Die Zeit* commented recently, that "he acted as if he had been a Nazi".

The case raises the question: how far can wartime and Nazi-era behaviour be judged by present-day standards? Dr Filbinger and his sympathizers point out that life was very different in Nazi Germany and it was extremely dangerous to disobey instructions.

No one, except perhaps Herr Hochhuth, sees Dr Filbinger as a Nazi criminal. It has been his unbending and unrepentant attitude to his past as much as the events themselves which have damaged him.

Even members of his own party suggest that expressions of regret for what happened would have done him far more good than a lawsuit and expressions of what the Social Democrats have branded his "pathologically clear conscience".

Leg shots signal new terror wave

From John Earle
Rome, July 6

A new offensive by the Red Brigades appeared to be under way today with the shooting in the legs of the president of the Turin association of small industrialists, Signor Aldo Ravaioli. The Turin shooting came after a similar attack yesterday in Milan on a senior Pirelli executive, Signor Gavino Menca.

Both men were shot repeatedly as they left home for the office by a man and a woman. Responsibility for both was claimed in telephone calls to the local press by the Red Brigades, the organization which kidnapped and murdered Signor Aldo Moro, the Christian Democratic leader, in May.

Signor Ravaioli, the owner of a small, light engineering firm, had alighted from his car to close the garden gates of his home when he was shot from behind. The assailants made off in a waiting car. It was his thirty-fourth birthday today.

A hospital statement said that Signor Ravaioli would undergo surgery for the removal of bullets from his knee, thigh and wrist.

It was the ninth terrorist attack—two of them fatal—on individual people in Turin this year, while that on Signor Menca was the tenth in Milan.

Candidate pulls out of Italian presidential poll

From Our Correspondent
Rome, July 6

Signor Sandro Pertini, proposed by the Socialists at the beginning of this week as candidate for the presidency of the republic, today announced his withdrawal from the contest, after failing to win the support of the Christian Democrats.

The twelfth inconclusive ballot in a week today brought more abstentions and blank papers than valid votes.

Signor Pertini, who is 81 and former president of the Chamber of Deputies, said: "The country, which wishes to see resolved its pressing and grave problems, is justifiably showing itself increasingly intolerant of the vain contest that has been taking place in Parliament for too many days."

The prospective candidates discussed in new consultations tonight, included: Signor Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader and Signor Francesco De Martino, Signor Antonio Giolitti, the European Commissioner, and Signor Giuliano Assalto, all three Socialist politicians.

Paris daily is sold after months of uncertainty

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, July 6

Another leading Paris daily paper changed hands officially today after months of uncertainty about its fate. *L'Aurore*, the independent right-wing newspaper, and the racing daily *Paris-Turf*, both belonging to the same press group in which M Marcel Boussac, the textile magnate, had a majority interest, were sold to a group of banks and business interests, of which the leading representative is M Marcel Fourrier, head of the Carrefour chain of supermarkets.

L'Aurore, the spiritual descendant of the famous Radical Socialist newspaper founded by Clemenceau, was founded after the liberation of France by M

Paul Basid, a Radical Socialist parliamentarian and M Robert Lazurick, a man of socialist sympathies. It began to lose money in the past year. The long drawn out election campaign and the possibility of a left-wing victory dried up advertising revenue and worsened its financial position. The uncertainty over its fate further reduced advertising revenue.

There was talk earlier this year of its purchase by M Marcel Dassault, the aircraft manufacturer, but the Government opposed this.

L'Aurore has an average circulation of 280,000 and *Paris-Turf* of 150,000. This was not enough to keep the group afloat.

Low pay plan for European MPs

From David Wood
Luxembourg, July 6

Some senior members of the managerial bureau of the European Parliament are seething with resentment about the moves being made by the Council of Ministers to fix the pay and allowances of the 410 MPs who will be directly elected next June.

The Council wants a decision now so that potential candidates for the elected Parliament would know in good time "the job specification".

The Community Committee of Permanent Representatives in Brussels (Coreper), is preparing proposals, to bring before ministers, suggesting a relatively low salary with a complicated formula for the addition of a national allowance, a community allowance and travel and subsistence expenses.

Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, and Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, publicly aligned themselves with the view of anti-Community members of the Parliamentary Labour Party that European MPs should not be given salaries that would make the Commons, figure of £6,270 a year look ridiculously disproportionate.

That explains why some British MPs today described Coreper as resorting to "a Wilson-Pearl solution", that is, on the model of the Commons' reluctance to increase its own pay but readiness to increase old allowances and invent new ones. The formula being discussed expects European MPs to live on their expenses sheets.

All British MPs are awaiting a 10 per cent pay award very soon, but the prospect does not allay their outrage that succeeding governments lack the courage to fix a realistic salary for fear of raising a public outcry in a day of incomes restraint.

British MPs are the lowest paid in the Nine apart from Ireland, and there is anger that British influence should be used to impose equal poverty on the directly elected European MPs.

Hopes that the West Germans who are the best paid politicians in the Community would fight for a parliamentary salary of £20,000 a year or more have been dashed.

There are highly experienced politicians here who take the Council of Ministers' moves to fix a salary lightly. As they say, it would be a strange elected Parliament that did not early in its life assert a pay claim proportionate to the work it set itself to do. A Parliament that cannot settle its own pay, runs the comment, will be incapable of settling anything else.

Parliamentary report, page 12

Austria blockade continues as Kreisky talks fail

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, July 6

Prospects of ending the heavy vehicle blockade of the Austrian border before the next wave of tourist traffic at the weekend faded today after fruitless talks between Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, his ministers, and representatives of the lorry drivers and their employers.

During the day the blockade, which has closed almost every border road to heavy vehicles, and many to all traffic, was intensified. Blockades were also started on several motorways, particularly in the Salzburg region, where there were reports of incidents between Austrian and foreign lorry drivers who are stranded in the country.

Dr Kreisky has rejected outright the drivers' demand that the new tax on heavy vehicles using Austrian roads, popularly known as the transit tax, should be repealed.

He has also refused to negotiate under pressure of the blockade and has insisted that if it lasts much longer force may be used to break it.

Although the drivers' representatives have appealed to their members at the border barricades to allow private cars and buses to pass, there are reports from throughout Austria of hotel and boarding house beds remaining empty.

The Italian Government has protested formally to the Austrians about the way in which the next tax has been introduced, as it involves complex formalities at the borders, and come at the start of the holiday season.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Gromyko rejects Western accusations that Russia has broken détente agreements

From Michael 'Binyon
Moscow, July 6

Some people in the West were starting noisy, hysterical campaigns to push the world to brinkmanship, Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, told a session of the Supreme Soviet today.

Without mentioning any names but with clear reference to Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, Mr Gromyko said there were still quite a few open and hidden opponents of détente.

Imperialist and colonialist circles in the West were claiming that the actions of the Soviet Union and its allies in Africa were undermining détente. But this was a well designed to mask the efforts of certain circles in the West to preserve racism and colonialism in those places where the chains had not yet been broken.

Mr Gromyko was outlining to the deputies a draft law dealing with the ratification of international treaties, and in this connection he held up the Soviet Union as an example of a country that consistently honoured its international obligations.

He said both the Russians and Americans recognized that the other side was abiding by the provisions of the 1972 treaty limiting strategic weapons, and only "unscrupulous

and irresponsible loudmouths" could accuse the Soviet Union of not doing so.

Such accusations, he went on, were being made to hinder the current strategic arms limitation talks (Salt) and damage Soviet-American relations in general.

Mr Gromyko said it was an old and still valid principle of international law that international treaties should be observed, and the Soviet Union, which had put its signature to 10,000 treaties and accords, was a punctual, consistent and conscientious upholder of their provisions.

He said that even Winston Churchill, who was far from sympathetic to the Soviet Union, once said that he knew of no other government that abided by its obligations more punctiliously. However, the Foreign Minister said the present Peking leadership was establishing itself as the most vigorous opponent of any treaty or agreement to curb the arms race.

Mr Gromyko's speech was on the second and final day of the half-yearly session of the Supreme Soviet.

Spending plans: For the next two or three years, Soviet defence spending will continue to grow, according to the American Central Intelligence Agency. As some intercontinental ballistic missile submarine and

fighter aircraft programmes are nearing completion, the annual rates of growth in that period probably will be slightly lower than the long-run average, it said in a report entitled "Soviet defence spending: Trends and prospects."

"During the early 1980s, we expect the Soviets to begin testing and deploying a number of the new weapon systems under development. This probably will cause the annual rates of growth in defence spending to increase to a pace more in keeping with the long-term growth trend of 4 to 5 per cent."

Conclusion of Salt II agreement about the lines currently being discussed would not, in itself, slow the growth of Soviet defence spending significantly.

It said: "All of the evidence available to us on Soviet defence programmes under way and planned suggests that the long-term upward trend in allocation of resources to defence is likely to continue into the 1980s."

"The atmosphere in Moscow with regard to the economy, however, is one of concern, and the Soviet leaders could be considering modest alterations in military force goals. But even if such alterations were undertaken, the overall rate of growth of defence spending over the next five years or so probably would slow only marginally."—AP

Split in Delhi ruling party may end

From Kuldip Nayar
Delhi, July 6

The split which loomed large over India's ruling Janata Party last night may blow over.

A three-point unity formula was signed today by the various constituents of the party. The three points are: Cancellation of the Janata Party scheduled for July 17 in Delhi; cancellation of tomorrow's meeting of the Janata Legislature Party in Haryana; and a meeting of leaders to sort out differences on the advice of Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, the elder statesman, and Acharya Kripalani.

The signatories to the formula are Mr George Fernandes, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Madhu Limaye, Mr Advani, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Rabi Ray and Mr Karpuri Thakur.

Mr Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister, has accepted the formula on condition that Mr Devi Lal, the dismissed Chief Minister of Haryana, apologise for allegations he made against the party leadership over the dismissals of Mr Charan Singh, the former Home Minister and Mr Raj Narain. Mr Lal has already withdrawn his claims.

The Prime Minister also wants Mr Charan Singh to sign the formula.

There has been no suggestion to Mr Desai to restore Mr Charan Singh to the Cabinet.

This is a matter for the future, one signatory to the formula said.

Mr Chandra Shekhar, the Janata president, has endorsed the formula. He said that he for one was willing to forgive and forget the instances of indiscipline in the party.

What appears to have weighed with the Janata leaders is their anxiety to keep the party intact. All of them felt that the exit of Mr Charan Singh's group would injure the Janata and that Mrs Gandhi would be the gainer.

Deputy resigns: Mr Shyam Nandan Mishra, the deputy leader of the Janata party resigned today in protest over the dismissal last weekend of Mr Charan Singh.—Reuter.

Turkish-Greek talks focus on points of accord

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, July 6

Turkey and Greece will concentrate their efforts on the preparation of a joint document aiming at improving their relations, Mr Sukru Elekdağ, the secretary-general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, said here today.

He denied that agreement had been reached with Mr Byron Theodoropoulos, his Greek counterpart, who left Turkey today after two days of talks on the signing of a peace agreement pact. The matter was reportedly brought up by the Greek delegation.



Rehearsal in jeans for Elmar Oliveira, of the United States, who shared the first prize for violin in the Tchaikovsky competition, in Moscow.

Tchaikovsky successes for Britons

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, July 6

Mikhail Pletmyer, a 21-year-old Soviet student at the Moscow Conservatory, won the coveted Gold Medal at the International Tchaikovsky piano competition, it was announced late last night. Two British finalists also did well: Terence Judd placed fourth equal with a Soviet competitor Boris Petrov, and Christian Blackshaw was placed fifth.

The second prize was awarded jointly to Pascal Devroyen, of France, and André Laplante, of Canada. Two Soviet pianists, Nikolai Demidenko and Yegorin Rykin, shared third place.

In all, 73 musicians from 20 countries took part in the competition. Mr Pletmyer was always the favourite to win as

his virtuoso performances drew rapturous applause and he was highly praised by critics. A student of the late Professor Yakov Flier, he began playing the piano at the age of seven, and has already given numerous concerts.

Critics said that he displayed a "superb sense of music, colouristic mastery and virtuoso technique."

The British performers were warmly praised today by Tass. The official news agency said critics noted Judd's "artistic individuality, vivid musical thinking, dynamism and excellent technique."

Elshav's playing, Tass said, was notable for its "quality, well-controlled tone, polished technique and highly individual approach."

In the violin section, the Americans scored impressively. Elmar Oliveira tied for first place with a Soviet violinist Illya Gubert, and American competitors shared the second and fourth places.

Nathaniel Rosen, also an American, won the cello section of the competition.

Catholic bishops offer mediation in Rhodesia

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, July 6

Rhodesia's Roman Catholic bishops have offered to try to bring together the country's political leaders to find a way to end the five and a half year-old civil war.

In a statement today the secretaries of the Catholic Bishops' Conference said: "We are willing to offer our services to do whatever we can to assist in the process of reconciliation. We the Catholic Bishops of Rhodesia are appalled at the continuing bloodshed in this country which has led to the death of thousands of innocent people. We believe that our horror is shared by the mass of the people and we appeal to the political leaders. We therefore call on all the leaders to come together now to discuss the means of bringing about an end to bloodshed and achieving enduring peace and justice in this country."

The statement was signed by the Archbishop of Salisbury, the Most Rev Patrick Chikapa, the Bishop of Bulawayo, the Right Rev Henry Karlen, the Bishop of Gwelo, the Right Rev Tobias Chiginya, the Bishop of Wankie, the Right Rev Ignatius Prieto, Father Helmut Reckter, the Prefect Apostolic of Sinola, and Father Anthony Clarke, who is the Apostolic Administrator of Umtali in the absence of Bishop Donald Lamont who was deported last year after being charged with breaching security.

The Roman Catholic Church has been one of the chief targets of guerrillas during the civil war, with 17 priests and nuns losing their lives out of the 32 churchpeople to have been murdered since December 1976.

Eleven Catholic priests have been reported in the past 18 months.

The co-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Elliot Gabellah, told a meeting of the National Council of Women that between 40,000 and 50,000 African children, mainly Matabele, have been abducted for guerrilla training abroad.

Dr Gabellah accused Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Patriotic Front co-leader, of abducting the children for his army.

Money and arms had been supplied by the Russians, he said. The children had been "torn from their homes, schools and parents and launched on the ride of international communism."

The minister said the process was still continuing and some of the children were being raised and indoctrinated in Angola, Havana and Moscow. Some had been reported to have been shot near Lusaka, and even Mr

Nkomo admitted that he could not feed the hordes he had abducted.

Mr Military Squires, co-Minister of Justice and of Law, Order, told whites at a Salisbury election meeting that if Rhodesian Front Party was satisfied with the constitution proposals he and his colleagues would reject them.

The accord of March 3 predicted a change in the political and social circumstances of Rhodesia, but it would be wrong and indeed immoral to have over political power to change and this would not be done. If essential safeguard after independence was the presence of the white community and arms forces free from political interference. The internal settlements must be given a chance to work but people had to be prepared in case it did not work, Squires added.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: Did 15 semi-dissident members of Robert Mugabe's Zanu wing, the Rhodesian Patriotic Front really escape Mozambique and freedom in Mozambique? Or the whole story just an elaborate fabrication?

Despite Rhodesian insistence that the 15 men are in hiding in Swaziland, there has so far been nothing to substantiate this claim apart from their presence in Albino, an alleged escapee, Mr. Gino Sibhole, whose accounts to the press have proved to be highly contradictory.

The Swaziland Government has denied any knowledge of the 15 defectors, apart from Mr Sibhole. So has the United Nations Commission on Refugees in Mbabane.

Mozambique Government claims to be equally in the dark about the reported escape.

Diplomatic sources in both capitals, without ruling out that it may have taken place also say they have no knowledge of the men's whereabouts.

Salisbury: Twelve national guerrillas, five collaborators with the guerrillas and a white farmer are the latest victims of the Rhodesian war, a militia communiqué announced.

The communiqué named a farmer as Mr Kenneth Gifford aged 57. It also reported yesterday evening Vila Salazar, a Rhodesian station on the Mozambique border, "was subjected to intensive rocket mortar and small arms fire—three hours of shelling."

There were no people hurt and no damage to property was reported.—Agence France Presse.

Barnard plan to give up surgery

From Mario Modiano
Athens, July 6

Artists of the hands is forcing Professor Christian Barnard, the South African heart transplant specialist, to give up surgery, he said in Athens tonight.

He was announcing his plans to stake charge of a "centre of preventive medicine" planned for the Aegean island of Cos, traditional birthplace of Hippocrates, the father of medicine.

The centre would be part of a large hotel complex to be financed by a Greek civil engineer, Mr Aris Argyriou, and sponsored by the Greek National Tourist Organization.

Professor Barnard said his services would be available on condition that there was no objection by a Greek medical profession, and that the centre would be accessible to all Greeks, rich or poor.

This did not seem to tally with Mr Argyriou's plan for a "high income group hotel" as the centre of a complex including a water-cure establishment, oceanographic and ecological centres, all presided over by Princess Maria-Gabrielle of Savoia.

Ghana's new military ruler frees jailed politicians

Accra, July 6.—Lieutenant-General F. W. K. Akuffo, Ghana's new military leader, today ordered the release of politicians jailed for disputing the official result of a referendum to decide Ghana's future form of government, the Ghana news agency reported.

The move is believed to be the first in a series of conciliatory gestures planned by General Akuffo, who replaced General Ignatius Acheampong as head of state in a bloodless "palace coup" yesterday.

The agency said the Supreme Military Council, headed by General Akuffo, ordered the release of "all" those arrested for protesting against the result of the March referendum. Reports at the time of the arrests in April said at least 40 were held.

Those to be freed include Mr Kimba Agbello Gbedema, Finance Minister under the late Kwame Nkrumah, and co-leader of the People's Movement for Freedom and Justice.

Others are Mr William Ofori-Atta, Foreign Minister in the civilian government of Dr Kofi A. Busia which General Acheampong overthrew in 1972, and Mr Victor Owusu, Justice Minister in the Busia Government.

The politicians arrested in April represented the former multi-party political system. They and their supporters kept the military regime under pressure after student demonstrations for a return to civilian rule last summer.

They had protested against the official 54 per cent "yes" vote for a non-party union government to take over after elections promised in 1979. The jailed politicians said the results were faked.

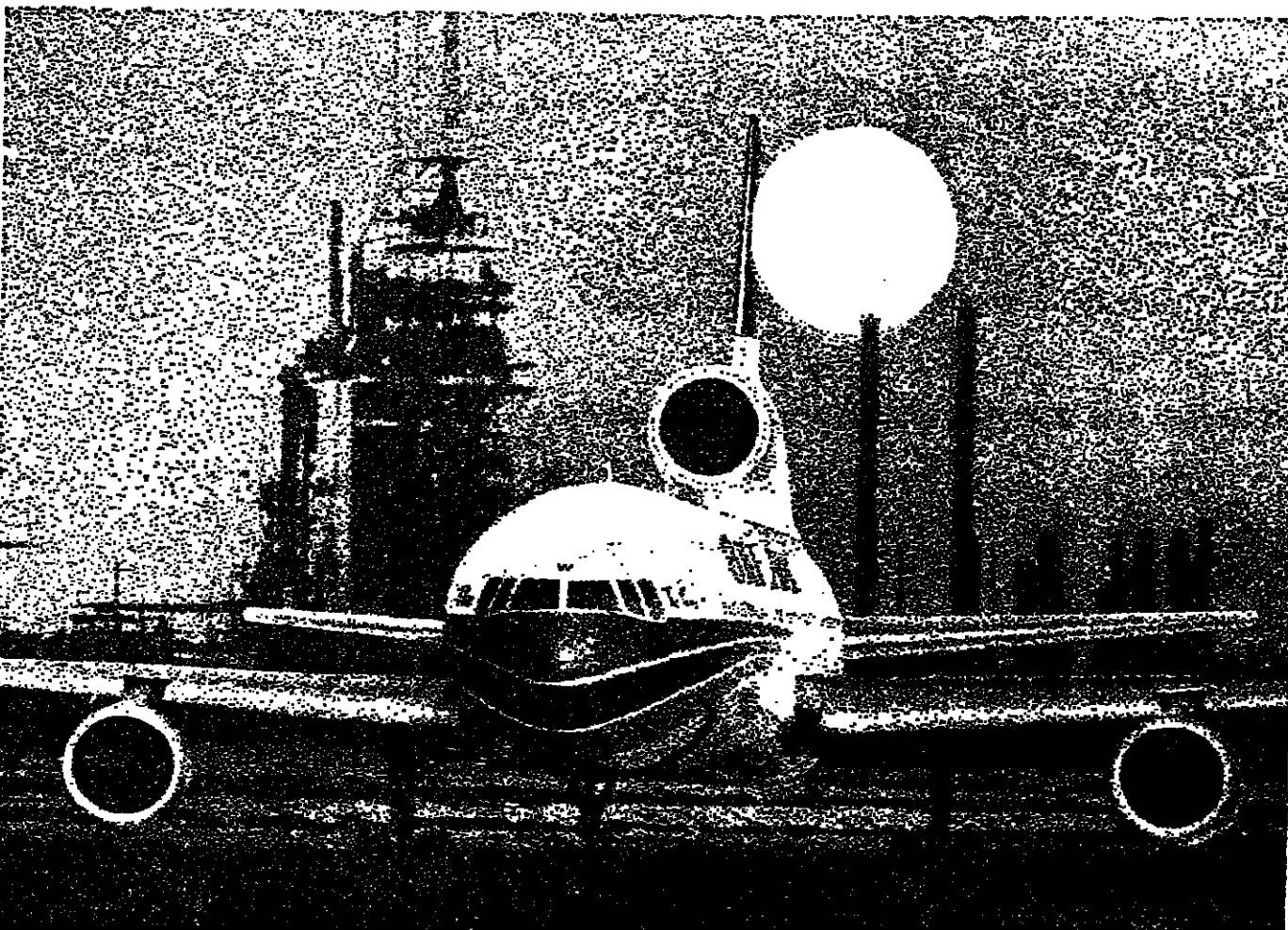
There was no violence in the behind-scenes coup which forced the resignation and retirement from the Army of General Acheampong and dozens of the impoverished West African country remained calm.

Political sources said they were afraid to show any emotion until they saw what the new leader planned to do.

General Akuffo's move in ordering the release of the arrested opposition leaders was welcomed by Ghana's powerful professional class and intelligentsia as a step in the right direction.

Political sources believed General Akuffo might follow it up by scrapping the union government project and calling early elections for a return to civilian rule.—UPI.

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Rebuff for French-speaking secessionists in Quebec

From John Best
Ottawa, July 6

The Liberal Party won a convincing victory yesterday in a Quebec provincial by-election in the Montreal riding of Notre Dame de Grâce.

This is a predominantly Anglo-Saxon constituency in a predominantly French-speaking city and province. But a majority of the French-speaking voters, who represent 25 per cent of the electorate, voted Liberal; and the Parti Québécois, which seeks Quebec's independence from Canada, won hardly more than half the votes it obtained in Notre Dame in 1976.

It was the first by-election since the Parti Québécois ousted the Liberals out of office in the province in November, 1976.

The Liberal candidate, Mr Reed Scofield, won 64 per cent

of the popular vote to take the seat rendered vacant when the previous Liberal member, Mr Bruce Mackenzie, resigned last spring.

Mr Claude Ryan, the Quebec Liberal leader, immediately claimed a victory for his party over "political extremism" and challenged Mr René Lévesque, the Premier, to hold his promised referendum on independence this autumn.

Mr Scofield, an economist, won 12,797 votes to 4,983 for the runner-up, Mr David de Jong, an independent. The candidate of the Parti Québécois, Mr Michael Gelin, was third with 2,347 votes while Mr Albert Brudette for the Union Nationale had 341.

Mr Scofield won 11 of 16 polls in the St Pierre, a predominantly French-speaking area of the riding.

Leading article, page 17

Taiwan not to buy Israeli jets

Taipei, July 6.—The Nationalist Chinese Government has no plan to buy Israel Kfir jet fighters, Major-General Wang Yeh-Kai, the Taiwan military spokesman, said today.

Commenting on press reports that President Carter had given permission to Israel to sell 50 to 60 of the American-engineered fighters, worth about \$270m, to Taiwan, he said: "There is nothing to it."—Agence France Presse.

US law chief held in contempt

New York, July 6.—Mr Griffin Bell, the United States Attorney General, was today ordered held in contempt of court for refusing to release files of 18 FBI officials alleged to have spied on the Socialist Workers' Party.

It was the first time an Attorney General had been involved in such a case. Mr Bell could be jailed or fined but he is expected to appeal against the ruling.—Reuter.

Plan to settle 100,000 Jews in West Bank

Jerusalem, July 6.—The ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim block today announced plans for widespread Jewish settlement throughout the occupied West Bank, with Jews outnumbering Arabs there by the end of the century.

The plan, described to the press as an answer to what spokesmen termed "President Sadat's so-called peace plan", has not been approved by the Government.

Gush Emunim leaders said they did not expect even the right-wing government of Mr Menachem Begin to accept it in full. They said that next week they would begin a publicity campaign against Mr Begin's policies, including his readiness to give administrative autonomy to West Bank Arabs.

Mr Haiman Porat, the Gush Emunim leader, said at a press conference that 100,000 Jews

could settle in the West Bank within the next 10 years if the Government adopted their plan for the many new Jewish villages they hope to establish.

President Sadat flies to Vienna tomorrow on a state visit to Austria during which he will have talks with Israeli opposition leaders on his Middle East peace proposals. The proposals call for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem as an interim measure while peace talks continue.

The Israelis would also be required to dismantle Jewish settlements on Arab territory captured during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and accept eventual Palestinian self-determination.

Israeli Government officials have made clear that the plan, made public yesterday, is unacceptable but the Labour opposition has been silent.

Vienna: Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader, said in an interview with the Austrian television today that "we are willing to withdraw from (Arab) territories" now held by Israel.

Roger Berthoud writes: Dr Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, has lent his support to an editorial in the Jewish Chronicle which strongly criticized the Government's recent proposals for the West Bank, and advocated withdrawal from occupied territory after Arab fulfilment of certain preconditions.

The weekly's editorial of June 23 attacked the Begin plan for continuing to equate territory with security and for regarding the acquisition of territory as an end in itself.

"Neither course will bring Israel the peace she so desperately needs, unless one believes that the coming of the Messiah is imminent," it commented bitterly.

Hard though it was for Israel's friends to say it, no solution could be effective without doing justice to the strong claims for some sovereign Palestinian entity. Four costly wars had proved that guarantees of territorial inviolability.

"Peace can only grow out of an eventual understanding with the Arabs, founded on mutual recognition of each other's fears and aspirations," the editorial said.

In a letter appearing in today's issue, Dr Jakobovits strongly supported the peace plan which the June 23 editorial had outlined.

Leading article, page 17

OVERSEAS

Japan warns Vietnam not to follow Russia if it wants aid

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, July 6

Japan has apparently warned Mr Phan Hien, the visiting Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister, that Hanoi cannot expect much of the aid it seeks from Tokyo if Vietnam acts as a pawn of the Soviet Union in South-East Asia.

Sources close to the Japanese Government said tonight that the warning had been dropped "in the form of a gentle hint" during the past two days when Mr Sonoda Sonoda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, met Mr Hien for a round of talks in Tokyo.

Mr Sonoda apparently warned Mr Hien that Japan's decisions on economic aid would be guided by evidence of whether Vietnam would "tilt totally towards" the Soviet Union and thereby arouse the suspicions of South-East Asia.

Officials claim that Mr Hien, who is visiting Tokyo on the invitation of the Japanese Government, told his hosts today that Vietnam wanted to normalize its relations with the United States as soon as possible. Foreign Ministry officials said tonight that Mr Hien also appeared to approach Hanoi's previous approach towards South-East Asia, he told Japanese officials

that Vietnam was prepared to work together with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) to form a "zone of peace" in the area.

Officials said that Mr Hien had given Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, and Mr Sonoda an outline of Hanoi's new approach to foreign policy today, almost four days after China had announced that it halted all forms of aid to Vietnam.

Mr Sonoda met Mr Mike Mansfield, the United States Ambassador, later today to brief him on Vietnam's foreign policy.

Mr Hien apparently denied suggestions that Vietnam's joining Comecon, the Soviet bloc's economic grouping, was a result of its rift with China.

Hanoi, July 6.—Talks between Vietnamese and Chinese officials on the repatriation of Chinese from Vietnam remained deadlocked today, after 10 sessions.

It now seemed unlikely that the two Chinese passenger ships, Changli and Minghua, anchored outside Vietnamese territorial waters off Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) respectively, would enter Vietnamese ports in the near future to take on board 1,400 Chinese repatriates.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement said that the Chinese insisted on calling the repatriates "persecuted Chinese," while Vietnam refused to accept that term.—Agence France-Presse.

Further six-year term for S Korean leader

From Our Own Correspondent
Tokyo, July 6

President Park Chung Hee of South Korea was re-elected to serve a fourth six-year term today when 2,583 members of an electoral college returned him to power without a single vote of dissent.

A spokesman for the regime in Seoul said in a telephone interview that President Park had received the "overwhelming support of almost 100 per cent of the electoral college".

The official went on to announce that 2,577 members of the college had endorsed President Park who was the single candidate in the election. One vote was declared invalid and five members of the electoral college were absent. The electoral college, comprised of teachers, village chiefs and minor officials loyal to the regime, was elected by popular vote, mainly in the politically

unsophisticated countryside, in May this year.

Ironically, the results of the election, described as "farcical" by South Korean dissidents, follow the sycophantic pattern of elections set by the communist regime in North Korea last November.

Pyeongyang radio announced then that almost 100 per cent of all registered voters in North Korea had turned out to reelect President Kim Il Sung and 579 other unopposed candidates of the Korean Communist Party to the Supreme People's Assembly.

In South Korea today leaders of the opposition and well known dissidents, including a former President, Mr Yun Po Son, were kept under house arrest while members of the electoral college voted.

One official said the dissidents were placed under house arrest to forestall a planned demonstration



David Frost was delighted by a remark by Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, in a programme presented by Mr Frost on an American television network on Wednesday.

Thai MPs debate way to restore democracy

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, July 6

Thailand's progress towards democracy can be followed every Thursday at the Parliament building where the National Assembly is holding a weekly debate on the draft of a new constitution, the twelfth since 1932.

Once the Assembly, appointed by the military junta after the most recent coup last October, ratifies the constitution the way will be clear for parliamentary elections.

The nation's experience of democracy is limited to only three years (1973-76) in the 46 years since a revolution overthrew the absolute monarchy and instituted a constitutional one.

The new constitution appears to please nobody except the military who look like remaining in power whatever happens at the forthcoming elections.

The military exercise power through the National Policy Council, made up of senior officers, and through the office of General Kriangsak Chamanand, the Prime Minister, who is also supreme commander.

By giving extraordinary powers to the chairman of the National Policy Council—a post held by Admiral Sangad Chalawoo—the new constitution safeguards military control. The chairman is to appoint

senators with powers virtually equal to those of elected members of Parliament.

So far most criticism of the constitution was focussed on the powers proposed for the Senate which is expected to be filled by military officers and senior civil servants.

The proposal that the Prime Minister need not be an elected MP but can be appointed by a majority of both Houses, also arouses criticism.

The first consideration of the authors was to guarantee government stability. A woman member of the Assembly, complaining that the constitution provided for the dissolution of the elected House but not of the Senate, said: "If you who are seated here are not aware of the power of the people, one day it will move right into this place."

The constitution falls short of guaranteeing all the rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which Thailand is a signatory. Several Assembly members have demanded a guarantee of equal rights for women.

Mr Sompob Hotrakrit, a deputy Prime Minister, criticized the draft for trying to please the military. Mr Seni Pramot, the former Prime Minister and a member of the drafting committee, called it "a constitution full of rotten teeth".

'Secret army' of Karpov chess aides under fire

Manila, July 6.—Anatoly Karpov, the Soviet world champion, will be assisted by two grandmasters when he defends his title against Viktor Korchnoi, the self-exiled Russian challenger.

His seconds are Yuri Balashov and Igor Zaishev. The 14-member Soviet chess delegation is headed by Mr Viktor Baturinsky, the deputy head of the Soviet Chess Federation. It also includes Mikhail Tal, the former world champion, and Mr Valery Krylov.

Tal told reporters that he was attending the match as a journalist for the chess magazine 64. The exact designation of Mr Krylov was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, in Baguio, the venue of the championship, Korchnoi today attacked what he called "a secret army of anonymous agents" helping Karpov to defend his crown.

In a letter to the organizers of the contest he said it was "a possible infringement of security".—Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

Rainfall kills nine

Rochester, Minnesota, July 6.

At least nine people are believed to have been drowned and several others are missing in floods here after 7in of rain in less than six hours.

Solomons look to aid and loans as 84 years of British protection run out 200,000 form independent nation

From James Shrimpton
Reuter Correspondent
Honiara, July 6

A chain of peaceful green islands which were the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the Pacific area during the Second World War becomes the world's newest independent nation tomorrow.

Head-hunters and cannibals once roamed the Solomon Islands and atolls and even today important guests are challenged on arrival by fierce-looking, half-naked warriors brandishing spears, their bodies smeared with mud.

But today this is merely a colourful tradition and the visitor to the new state is assured that his life is in no danger.

Even Australians are now welcome. A century ago they were less popular when they raided the islands, abducting people to work on the sugar cane fields of Queensland.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are here to represent the Queen in independent celebrations marking the end of Britain's 84-year protectorate.

Several islands to the north, known as the Northern Solomons, including Bougainville and Buka, are a part of Papua New Guinea.

The population of the islands now achieving independence numbers about 200,000, about 15,000 of whom live in Honiara, Copra is a main export.

The American wartime headquarters was in Honiara, which became the capital after the former main town, Tulagi, was destroyed.

Honiara stands on the island of Guadalcanal, the scene of

fierce fighting between Japanese and American forces in 1942-43, which ended with the annihilation of the Japanese garrison.

That is now just history. Japanese and American flags were seen side by side when the Duke and Duchess arrived here and a Japanese fishing company has presented the Solomons Government with two new cars as an independence gift.

When American forces arrived here in the Second World War they were surprised to find that the island people were no longer cannibals but had become Christians, converted by British missionaries.

By foreign standards, Honiara does not look much like a national capital. The tallest building on the main street, running parallel to the harbour, is the four-storey Bank of Hongkong. Then there are the offices of Solair, the three-aircraft national airline, a cinema showing mostly violent action films and the South Sea Trading Store.

The expatriate population of about 1,000 lives mostly in tree-styled houses on a ridge overlooking the town and harbour.

This week the streets are decorated with flags and banners of turquoise, green and yellow, the national colours. All hotels are full with visitors and bars, restaurants and taxis are doing a roaring trade.

Apart from the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester (the islanders were disappointed that the Prince of Wales did not come as he did to neighbouring Papua New Guinea in 1975) guests include Senator John Glenn of the United States, the former astronaut, the

leaders of many south Pacific nations, Mr Andrew Peacock, the Australian Foreign Minister, and Mr J. B. Gordon, the New Zealand Labour Minister.

In a town given to heat, humidity and heavy rainstorms, the organizers are praying that the sun will shine on the ceremonies, all of which are in the open air.

After the celebrations, the Solomons will face the task of living independently in an inflationary world. Britain has promised a grant of £26m in development and budgetary aid over the next four years and there will be further help from the European Development Fund.

Mr Tony Hughes, permanent secretary of the Finance Ministry, is under no illusions about the problems ahead, which include fluctuating prices for copra and other exports, repairing the imbalance between town and rural incomes and the need to develop agriculture, timber, fishing and secondary industry.

The Government will look to four main sources of finance", he said in a report prepared for *The News Drum*, the government newspaper. "They are taxation, local borrowing, foreign aid and overseas borrowing."

The Solomons have a single-chamber national Parliament of 38 elected members. Earlier this year it chose Mr Peter Kenani, aged 35, a New Zealand-educated former teacher and civil servant, as Chief Minister to lead the country into independence.

Politically, the Government's main problem is to contain the demands for more autonomy from the western district, the most commercialized part of the country.—Reuters.

Kidnapped woman said to have lived in fear

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, July 6

A fresh twist has been given today to the affair of the young Algerian woman, Mrs Dalila Maschino, who is alleged by her husband and the Canadian Government to have been abducted in Montreal by her brother and flown back to Algeria.

The Lausanne daily *24 Heures* carries a report of interviews in Algeria with Mrs Maschino and the brother, Mr Messaoud Zeghar, a well-known Algerian businessman who also has an office here. He invited a Swiss journalist to go and talk to his sister.

The report includes a picture of a smiling Mrs Maschino at the piano in the family's Algiers home. Mr Zeghar alleges in the

interview that his sister, who is 26, was coerced into accompanying her husband, also aged 26, to Canada because he had taken revealing photographs of her.

Mrs Maschino is quoted as saying that because of this her marriage was "a parody". "I lived in the fear my family would learn about the photos."

After she sent her brother a greetings card early this year he had come to see her in Montreal and "I cried a lot and told him everything".

On April 25, accompanied by her brother, she got on to a chartered aircraft on its way from the United States to Algeria with a consignment of freight. "I was very happy to be back among the family", she added.

Jet near-misses reported at Narita airport

Tokyo, July 6.—Congestion at Tokyo's controversial new Narita airport has caused near misses between aircraft since it opened six weeks ago, air traffic controllers at the airport said in a poll published today.

Nearly seventy per cent of the controllers said they worked under intense pressure, coping with traffic from two airports near by, according to the poll by the Ministry of Transport's labour union.

Ten out of the 250 controllers said they had witnessed near misses since the airport opened.

On Sunday about 50 radicals were arrested in the biggest demonstration yet at the airport.—Reuters.

Isn't it time we got this one off the ground?

It's taken a lot of planning to get us where we are today. Into the state where the "pound in your pocket" is worth about half what it was four years ago; where over a million people in the UK are unemployed; where industrial productivity gives constant cause for concern.

Isn't it time we started making use of the talents and opportunities we have—rather than dreaming up six new regulations for every new idea?

Haven't we learned yet that nationalisation, apart from being unpopular, is often just a way to build up bureaucracy at the expense of efficiency and choice?

Shouldn't we be encouraging investment in new industries, new techniques and new jobs—rather than treating anyone who saves and invests as some kind of criminal to be taxed into the ground?

And might it not be that if we freed enterprise to do the job it's good at—providing goods and services competitively, economically and efficiently—we'd all benefit?

Free enterprise may not be perfect. But when you think what the opposite has done for us, it can't help looking good.

Support free enterprise and keep Britain's builders free.

TAYLOR WOODROW

Taywood House, 345 Rutlip Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2QK

PARLIAMENT, July 6, 1978

BR's safety record makes tragedy 'doubly distressing'

House of Commons

Mr William Rogers, Secretary of State for Transport, said in a statement that he had ordered a full inquiry into the rail accident at Taunton. It would be held in public as soon as possible by an inspecting officer of railways.

In the circumstances (he said) it would be clearly wrong for me to speculate on the cause of the first British Railways have an excellent safety record. This is the first passenger death since 1975 and the worst in terms of fatalities for over 10 years. This makes the tragedy doubly distressing.

I am sure that the House would wish to express its deepest sympathy with the families and friends of all those who have been killed and its concern for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Mr Edward du Cann (Taunton, C) is right to speculate on the causes of this dreadful accident should be eschewed. The public requires reassurance and the need for that will be arranged that the inquiry is completed at the earliest possible moment.

Mr Rogers—I would like to see this inquiry held as soon as possible. The procedure is that British Rail conduct an internal inquiry to obtain the facts and then the public inquiry begins, usually after 10 to 14 days.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L)—Some of the people who were killed in this accident, I must be one of the few people who use this train every week. All doors are locked because the train is late. Every single door out of the train is locked, other than the one where the attendant sits.

Threat of strike remains despite minister's appeal

Mr Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, said in a written reply that the Civil and Public Services Association had rejected his appeal to return to work. He said the Government was determined to bring the regulations into force.

Mr Booth said—I told the House on May 15 that the Government was determined to bring the regulations into force. The Civil and Public Services Association had rejected my appeal to return to work. I am sure that the House will understand the need for these regulations. They are necessary to ensure that the public services are run efficiently and that the interests of the public are protected.

These draft regulations are currently being considered by the National Insurance Advisory Committee to whom the CPSA have made their views known, and we hope to bring the regulations to the House before the recess.

However, although the report earlier this year of the joint committee of management and staff (including CPSA representatives) showed that staff and claimants in the pilot offices were in favour of the system, the CPSA are opposing the continuation of the pilot scheme as part of their campaign to get the Government to change their decision to limit the growth of Civil Service manpower.

They have called a one-week strike beginning next Monday. Their members in a number of the pilot offices operating the fortnightly procedures—including those at Cumbernauld, Burton-on-Trent and Widnes.

I understand that they hope

More changes to Wales Bill forced through

House of Lords

The Government were defeated on an amendment dealing with disputes between water authorities and the proposed Welsh Assembly, when the report of the Wales Bill was continued.

Lord Middleton moved an amendment to give a water authority whose area lay wholly or partly in England the right to intervene in a dispute between a water authority and the assembly.

Lady Stedman, Baroness in Waiting, said it would be objectionable to give the water authority the power to go over the head of the assembly in this way. These authorities would be able to make representations to the minister but specific provision was not needed in the Bill.

Lord Elton (C) said the right of intervention was not needed to prevent interminable talks. It did not justify appeal.

The amendment was carried by 87 votes to 63—majority against the Government, 29.

Listed buildings: Moving the first of a series of amendments, Lady Elton, for the Opposition, said they would enable the Secretary of State to hold a public inquiry at which parties would be able to make representations and give reasons for certain actions to be taken on listed buildings.

Lady Stedman, Baroness in Waiting, said the Government advised against similar amendments in the case of the Scotland Bill. It was not because the Government were unsympathetic but because they considered her amendments unnecessary and ineffective. They did not expect that the Welsh Assembly would be neglectful of its heritage.

The amendment was carried by 87 votes to 63—majority against the Government, 4.

Right of access: An amendment to add the Welsh Assembly to the list of bodies in the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, which would give the assembly the right to admission to meetings of the assembly, was moved by Lord Selsman (C).

Lord Harris, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the amendment would not improve the Bill. The Government sympathized with the amendment but it would have to add anything to the Bill which would appear to the people of Wales to downgrade the assembly.

The amendment was carried by 61 votes to 50—majority against the Government, 11.

Report stage was concluded.

The Consumer Safety Bill report stage was concluded.

House adjourned, 9.11 pm.

Three days on Finance Bill

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be the Finance Bill. The Government's proposals on aerospace production policy, debate on 1979 preliminary draft Community budget, and the Transport Bill, report stage.

Tuesday: Transport Bill, report stage.

Wednesday: Parliamentary Pensions Bill, report stage.

Thursday: Employment Bill, second reading.

Friday: Conclusion of third reading debate on Wales Bill if not finished on Thursday.

Three bags of horse manure hurled by man into chamber

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolton, Lab) sprang for cover as three bags of horse manure were hurled from the back of the public gallery towards the House of Commons just after 4 pm.

One bag landed on the floor of the House, one on the floor of the gallery, and the third landed behind the Government Front Bench.

A man and a woman were taken away struggling by four attendants and police officers.

The man screamed: "What about the prisoners in the block?"

"Free Irish political prisoners. Troops out," he shouted, lobbing a bag of manure at the speaker.

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Mr John Smith, Minister of State at the Privy Council Office, who was sprayed with the manure, was replying to points of order raised by the Opposition before the start of the Commons consideration of the Scotland Bill.

Mr Skinner, who sprang for the protection afforded by the overhang of the public gallery, returned seconds later and remarked to the Speaker (Mr George Thomas): "I didn't want any of that on me."

Unperturbed, Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab), who was standing behind Mr Smith, rose to speak and then complained that the smell and the manure was in his eyes and all around him.

"Well, move a little further along," the Speaker suggested, and added amid laughter, "I'm all right here."

He added: "I was anxious, however, to see the manure was not for Bolsover. It just missed him."

As the smell rose to the press gallery, and the public gallery

where people were fanning the air and some holding their noses, Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) removed his jacket and took out a handkerchief to wipe his face.

Most of the other MPs, however, gamely carried on raising their points of order encouraged by the Speaker who said he would have the benches cleared up the mess.

But after a few minutes he changed his mind. "It is in the interests of the House if I suspend the sitting for 15 minutes to enable this mess to be dealt with."

When the sitting resumed the Speaker said he would make a statement on the incident at a later stage.

Later the Speaker said—I have to inform the House that a man and a woman were taken into custody by the Sergeant at Arms in connection with the recent disturbance in the gallery. I make a serious view of this and have directed that they be given into the custody of the civil police.

Mr Charles Morrison (Derby, C) said it would be splendid if the Government could get the Scotland Bill through the Commons. He said that the Government had a good record in the Commons and that the Government should be praised for the way they had handled the situation.

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Mr Rees: I am not a Minister of Interior

Many policemen were fed up with the way law and order was getting tangled up in populist politics, Mr Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary, said at question time.

He had said that on May 31 the strength of the police in England and Wales was 107,675, compared with 108,338 on May 31, 1977. The net loss in strength from January to May was 326.

The Government were anxious to reverse the trend by encouraging recruitment and reducing wastage. Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C)—At a time when crime of every kind is increasing, does the Home Secretary seriously intend to reduce the manpower of the police, and that there is great urgency to reverse this trend and to put it back on a sound basis?

Mr Rees—Pay is a key element. There are 7,000 more policemen than there were four years ago and in the past there have been ups and downs in the figures. If he thinks that it is only pay and that there are no other problems with the police, he is wrong.

When the Edmund Davies report is published—and I have sent it for publication—he will see we were right to have a deep-seated report on the matter rather than play around as the Opposition were last autumn.

Mr Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab)—Between 1970 and 1974 some 10,000 more policemen were recruited because the then Government were negligent of police interests.

Mr Rees—There are more policemen than there were four years ago. The problem is deeper than that. The reports we are having are not only on pay but on negotiating machinery and the role of the police Federation.

There is something basic that needs to be looked at. That is what we have embarked upon.

Mr David Howell, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Ludlow, C)—I am sure that the Government will be able to get the police to do what they are asked to do. But while pay is vital there are many other questions affecting the need for more police. How will he tackle some of these problems?

One of them is getting far closer cooperation between the police and the community at grass roots level as well as at a higher administrative level. Another is the question of the valuable role of police women in the service.

Mr Rees—He is wrong to see this fundamental question of the role of police women as part of this. All he is doing is looking on to something which was in the newspapers recently. It is far deeper than that.

I am not a Minister of the Interior and the Home Office is not a Ministry of the Interior. Chief constables, who are responsible for this, are arranging for closer contact with the community. This is being done up and down the country.

Mr Patrick Mayhew (Royal Tunbridge Wells, C)—Does he think that a recent parliamentary reply to a report from the Home Affairs Committee on the state of the police in the first quarter of the year was 30 per cent up on last year and 140 per cent up on the year before?

Mr Rees—I do not believe it is to do with confidence in my administration. If he believes that he should be concerned about the problems of the police force.

I have talked with many recently. They are getting fed up with the way law and order is getting tangled up in populist politics.

Herring fishermen will have to obtain licence

European Parliament

Luxembourg

Parliament's Committee on Agriculture unanimously backed the Commission's proposal for a ban on herring fishing off the west coast of Scotland. Mr Mark Hughes (Durham, Lab) stated when he presented five reports from the committee on various aspects of fishing policy.

He said the biological evidence about the sharp decline in herring off the west coast of Scotland was so overwhelming that the committee unanimously backed the proposal for a herring ban.

The ban only applied to Community fishermen, and not to fishermen from Norway or the Faroe Islands. Had the committee been informed that it was not a ban on herring, it would have been a different matter. Community fishermen, he was not sure that the committee would have come to their conclusion so rapidly. There would have been comment on the absence of a ban on Norway and the Faroes.

The agreement between the Community and the Irish and Dutch governments for establishing Community fishing plans for the west coast of Scotland was the first in what he suspected would be a series of such plans for different parts of Community waters.

The reports contained important elements which showed the way forward. The ban must be based on scientific evidence, and include management policies for quotas, control of fishing equipment, and methods of fishing.

Every vessel permitted to fish directly for herring in that area of the Atlantic should be licensed. The committee required a draft regulation for a licensing system to cover boats, equipment, skippers and crews. It would also cover the number of days on which boats might operate and the species that might be caught.

Vessels would have a logbook to record catches, effort, and equipment, which would be considered Community property and available for scientific research.

Mr Sean Brosnan (Ireland, Fianna Fail) said there was doubt about the validity of the scientific evidence.

In its report to Parliament the committee requested Foreign Ministers of the Nine, Commission and the Council to take action to improve human rights and respect for democratic freedoms in Argentina.

It suggested the further use of public hearings to inform people about human rights violations. It suggested that procedures should be drawn up for financing public hearings.

The committee also presented a report on the conviction of Russian physicist, Yuri Orlov, in the Argentine. It suggested that the Argentine should be asked to assist the Government of the United Kingdom in the investigation of the Orlov case.

He said that it did not necessarily follow that those people had been released, but they were in prison. It had been alleged during the committee's discussion that those people were being tortured.

The day after the hearing, which had also been given evidence about the chairman of the human rights movement in Argentina, that man was released, and the committee could claim to have added to the pressure for his release by holding its hearings in public.

Science report

Archaeology: Treasure and trade

An analysis of the silver coins carried by a Dutch East India Company ship off the Isles of Sicily in 1743 shows how shipwreck treasure can reflect the trading and financial climate of the period when the ship set sail.

Collecting information from various sources, including East India Company records and the archaeological evidence of the treasure itself, Mr P. Marsden, of the British Museum, has built up a picture of the treasure carried by the Hollandia, which was part of the Dutch East India Company's fleet supplying Europe with goods from the Far East.

Because the value of the imports was far greater than that of European exports, eastern goods such as spices and silks, had to be exchanged for gold and silver. In practice, silver was used predominantly because it was then the principal currency in Asia and had greater purchasing power than gold.

Thus when the Hollandia sank on her outward journey she was carrying large supplies of silver coins. The date and place of origin of the coins reflect the fluctuations in the supply of silver to Europe during the late seventeenth century. The predominant coins in the treasure were Dutch ducats minted after 1740 and Spanish silver coins minted between 1730 and 1742. There was a smaller proportion of ducats dating from before 1680 but very few from the intervening years until 1740.

Historical records indicate that during those intervening years there was a shortage of silver in Europe. At that time supplies were coming largely from Central and South America by way of Spain. Losses due to shipwrecks, war and piracy made the voyages a hazardous business and there seems to have been a lack of silver in general circulation.

Accordingly, the composition of the treasure, which was found in 1743, indicates that trade with the East in the 1740s was based mainly on Spanish-American silver which went into circulation in Europe very soon after it was mined.

Mr Marsden has made a small analysis of the treasure of Dutch East India Company ships which sank off Hastings in 1776. He suggests that further insight into patterns of trade in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries could be gained by detailed study of the treasure's other historic shipwrecks.

By Nature-Times News Service Source: *Nautical Archaeology*, No. 7, No. 2, page 133, May, 1978.

£5,000 Premium Bond prizewinners

The £5,000 winners in the July Premium Bond draw

Broom Band draw are :											
1	W	719380	4	R	724390	3	J	719380	18	S	724390
2	N	719380	5	N	719380	4	N	719380	19	N	719380
3	N	719380	6	N	719380	5	N	719380	20	N	719380
4	N	719380	7	N	719380	6	N	719380	21	N	719380
5	N	719380	8	N	719380	7	N	719380	22	N	719380
6	N	719380	9	N	719380	8	N	719380	23	N	719380
7	N	719380	10	N	719380	9	N	719380	24	N	719380
8	N	719380	11	N	719380	10	N	719380	25	N	719380
9	N	719380	12	N	719380	11	N	719380	26	N	719380
10	N	719380	13	N	719380	12	N	719380	27	N	719380
11	N	719380	14	N	719380	13	N	719380	28	N	719380
12	N	719380	15	N	719380	14	N	719380	29	N	719380
13	N	719380	16	N	719380	15	N	719380	30	N	719380
14	N	719380	17	N	719380	16	N	719380	31	N	719380
15	N	719380	18	N	719380	17	N	719380	32	N	719380
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Sense takes a holiday and envy stays at home

Bernard Levin

I don't know who coined the phrase "the politics of envy", and in any case it has become so worn a cliché as to be now no more than a noise, conveying no meaning. But that we need a fresh phrase in much the same area has just been brought home to me rather forcibly by a copy I have received of a letter sent from, and presumably on behalf of, the North West Thames Regional Health Authority to the heads of all that body's departments and divisions, concluding with the words "Will you please ensure that each member of your staff is aware of this". I do not intend to name the writer of the letter (though he is, to judge from the post he holds, which is recorded beneath his signature, clearly a figure of some weight in the authority) because I assume that his letter is only promulgating policy rather than determining it, and that the rule he lays down would operate whether he had sent the letter or not. The essential point of the letter (the correspondent who sent it to me underlined it, though I feel that it could hardly have spoken more eloquently if it had been illuminated on vellum by a dozen exceptionally gifted medieval monks) is contained in the first paragraph, which reads in full, under the heading "Unpaid Leave (other than compassionate)", as follows:

"The grant of unpaid leave is not an anomaly approved because it could be held to be unfair to those staff who cannot afford the financial diminution whilst favouring those who can. If you consider how knells while you read that, you must be unconsciously deaf. Note that it is unpaid leave that is under discussion; note further that, as the letter goes on to make clear, those who are fortunate enough to slip through the net and obtain permission to take unpaid leave are tied in unyielding knots when it comes to the attendant financial arrangements. For instance:

"... it should be quite clearly borne in mind that those who take unpaid leave will be necessary for both the employer's and the employee's shares of the superannuation

contribution to be paid by the individual. And on top of that... incremental credit will be delayed by the length of the unpaid leave.

Very well; having established that those who have unpaid leave gain nothing whatever from public funds, either while they are having it or later, but that on the contrary they have to pay their employers' contribution to their own pension for the period in question, let us go back and contemplate the opening statement again. Before getting down to the substance of it, I must draw attention to the careful use of the subjunctive. The writer does not claim that unpaid leave is unfair to "those staff who cannot afford the financial diminution"; he does not even suggest that others believe it to be unfair; no, he remains firmly theoretical, and says only that it could be held to be unfair.

I dare say it could. There are very few limits, and those exceptionally flexible, to the capacity for envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness that some people, encouraged to feel those sentiments, could manage at a pinch. The point, however, is whether the encouragement should be provided. The belief that nobody should have anything that anybody else hasn't got has been growing in this country for a long time now—whence, after all, the expression "politics of envy". What is more, the essential belief that it is fuelled by a feeling that those whose lack of what others have is caused by their own unwillingness either to save or to work harder should be commensated for their own feebleness or laziness by policy of ennobling their more successful rivals.

The largely curious row over private medicine, for instance, is greatly illuminated by contemplation of the fact that the earnings of medical insurance, which would provide at least some of the means of payment, are well within the means of some of the most envious and uncharitable opponents of private hospital rooms, most of

them no more opposed to having such facilities themselves than Lady Castle was. Indeed, I believe that much of our taxation policy is designed to ensure that those who save out of their income are no better off by doing so than those who spend everything they earn, though in many cases the spenders earn more than the savers, and it would make no difference to the principle if they didn't.

Some of those who support this kind of policy add hypocrisy to the other unlovely qualities involved by insisting that they are only out to help the genuinely unfortunate among us. It isn't true, and even if it were it remains true also that in the long run (and increasingly in the short) you cannot make the poor richer by making the rich poorer, only by making everybody richer, including the rich. (This, of course, is the lesson that the American and German working classes have learned, and the British have not; the former do not mind if the boss earns more provided that they also do and the latter, or at any rate their union leaders, mind so much that they would apparently prefer to earn less themselves if by doing so they can ensure that the boss is no better off than he was before.)

Besides, what has even the most horrible cant about equality got to do with what is being done by the North West Thames Regional Health Authority (and I take it other health authorities)? I suppose somebody will say that the reason for this odious policy is that the work normally done by staff on unpaid leave has to be done by others while they are away, but such a claim can be ignored; the truth is that there is no purpose in what is laid down other than that stated plainly: to ensure that nobody may have anything that others cannot afford, even though depriving them of it will in no way help the poorer ones.

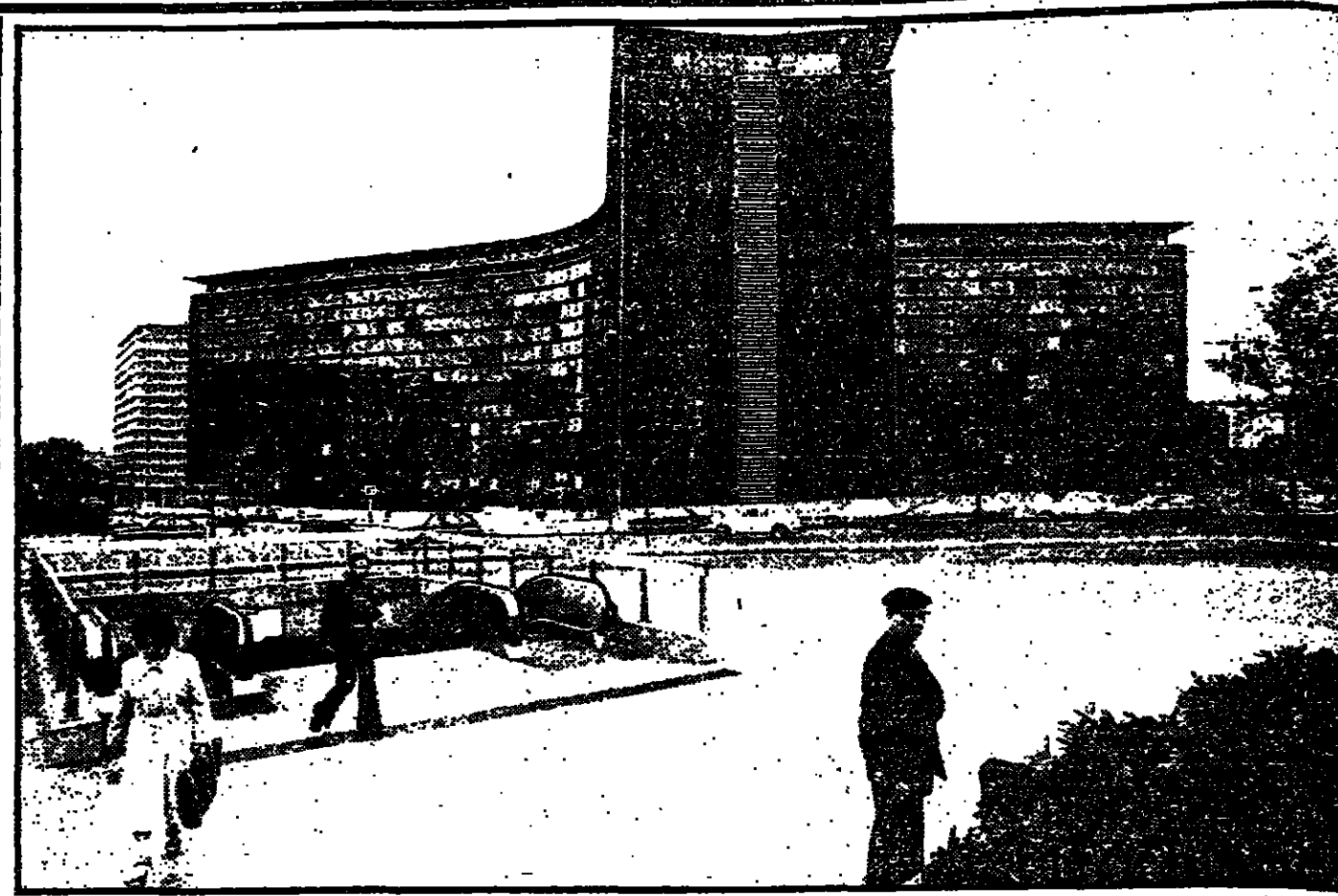
What has become of this country when such an attitude can prevail with no public outcry, no political campaign against it, not so much as a

protest by a bishop? (Not that that is surprising; it was probably one of today's bishops who thought the wheeze up—I could name at least three who would fill the bill.) Because some employees of the North West Thames Regional Health Authority cannot afford—no, are deemed to be unable to afford, for no evidence is provided—to take a week off without pay, in order to stretch their annual paid holiday agreeably, nobody who can afford it is to be permitted to do so. And the only reason given is that this "could be held to be unfair".

But what about paid leave? Some employees of the authority, no doubt, can afford, during their regular and official holidays, to go abroad; they must surely be forbidden to do so since others cannot go further than Bournemouth. Nay, some can manage no better than a caravan parked in a lay-by just off an unpleasant stretch of the M1; let all be reduced to the same level. It follows, of course, that a couple who forego many of those luxuries that are now necessities, and with which they save by doing so pay for private education for their children, must be barred from the practice; indeed, those who cannot go far but buy their children good books and gramophone records must be outlawed in the interests of those who don't, with a special squad of inspectors, of course, armed with the power of entry and search, to enforce the regulations.

And so on and so on and so on. And, I fear, so on. Few among my readers, I expect, will find this tale particularly surprising; I have no doubt they will find it silly. But it is not their own experience, that nothing will happen merely because I have written this narrative I take it granted. But in after years, when Britain is neither free nor prosperous, I hope somebody will draw the right conclusion: that those who put heavy weights on the backs of the more successful, even when they do not harm the less successful, will find it hard to move forward. I have no doubt that the wrists and ankles of those who disagree with what they are doing and have the temerity to

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The EEC headquarters in Brussels.

One gap the EEC cannot seem to bridge

The European Commission is becoming increasingly concerned about the continuing negative image which it has among most of the peoples of the EEC—notably, but by no means exclusively, in Britain.

Improvement in communications was one of the priorities set by Mr Roy Jenkins when he assumed the presidency of the Commission at the beginning of last year. Major changes were made to the structure and staffing of the information services in Brussels. But neither these, nor the replacement in the presidency of a shy technocrat by a sophisticated politician, have made a significant contribution to bridging the communications gap between the European institutions and public opinion in the Nine.

There are many reasons why the Commission and the other EEC institutions should present a blurred, faceless image to the outside world. First, the information services have not tended in the past to make many of the "high-flyers" in the Commission staff. Second, there is the continuing problem of language. Third, contrary to popular belief, the Commission's services are by no means over-stuffed, and officials simply do not have the time to learn all the nuances of the social, economic and political systems of EEC member-states other than their own.

Consequently, the public's ignorance of the Commission is matched by Commission officials' ignorance about conditions in the countries for which they are supposed to be legislating.

Thus Commission proposals often display a naïveté or insensitivity towards the difficulties in legal or social systems between the different member-states. This gives the Commission a bad name, but in fact it is a good deal less serious than it appears, because—again, contrary to popular belief—Commission draft directives have no legal force, and seldom if ever pass into legislation without major changes.

Commission draft directives are much more like Green Papers than laws. They are documents, which will be subject to a lengthy process of analysis by the European Parliament, the economic and social committee and the various expert advisory committees in which Brussels-based experts are involved before they get to the Council of Ministers for decision.

Failure to understand this has caused national politicians' interest groups to over react to Commission proposals. In the United Kingdom we are used to a rather short time-lag between a proposal appearing in the Queen's Speech and resulting legislation. The time-lag between a Commission draft directive and legislation is vastly greater.

Another major difference

not often understood between the Anglo-Saxon system and the EEC is that the latter, unlike the former, operates under a written constitution. The Commission can only take action on a problem if it has a mandate to do so under the Treaty of Rome; equally, it has an obligation to see that all provisions of the Treaty are applied in the nine member states, whatever their apparent degree of relevance to immediate problems. This means that the priorities as seen from Brussels may not square at all times with those seen from the national capitals. It means also that the framing of policy in the European institutions is dominated to a much greater extent by lawyers and by legal thinking and phraseology than we are used to in this country.

Finally, there is the *cut bono* problem. The Commission provides a very convenient alibi for national politicians when unpleasant decisions have to be taken. When there is money to be distributed or favourable decisions to be announced, on the other hand, national politicians like to take the credit. By and large, the mass media in all the member-states of the EEC remain highly nationalistic, so journalists listen to their own countries' ministers rather than to Commission officials when preparing their stories. Inevitably, therefore, the Commission tends to get a bad press.

To some extent, Commission officials accept that this is part of their role as guardians of the Treaty, and as the "honest brokers" in cobbling together the complex horse-trading through which EEC policy-making is conducted. Often part of the deal is that the national minister concerned is allowed to give his version of events unchanged to help him with his constituents at home.

The Commission, after all, has no direct constituents and so can afford to take a more relaxed view about its public image. But only to a degree. There comes a point at which the unpopularity of the institutions can seriously impair their effectiveness. We may be approaching that point now.

The relationship between the Commission—the most important of the EEC institutions—and member-governments is a complex one. On the one hand, since governments have the ultimate power of decision, progress can only be made if the Commission and governments are working

together in partnership (albeit with important differences of interest to reconcile). On the other hand, the Commission has an obligation to see that the Treaty of Rome is implemented, in spirit as well as in the letter, and this may at times bring it into direct conflict with one or more member-governments.

In some cases—as, for example, with tachographs—the obvious way of resolving these issues is to refer them to the European Court of Justice for a definitive ruling. So far no government has defied a decision by the court. But if all issues in dispute were referred to the court, it could become badly overloaded. And if cases were submitted lightly, there would be the danger that at some stage a government might decide to defy a court ruling, and the whole edifice of mutual trust on which the European Community rests could start to be undermined.

So in some cases the Commission might want to appeal over the head of a national government to public opinion in one or more member-states. It is highly important for the health and stability of the Community that it should be able to do so with some degree of credibility, or hope of success, in at least some issues. National governments can, and sometimes do, take short-sighted, selfish positions because of particular pressures or preoccupations.

If all decision-making is the result of crude bargaining between governments, without any significant pressure or input from the Commission, the European Community loses much of its cohesiveness and its ability to move forward. It is vital for the balance of forces in Europe that the Commission retains credibility and respect, as a force for unity and harmony.

The Commission itself has always been conscious of this need, though it has not usually been good at meeting it, for the reasons given above. It is ironic that its public image should be one of remoteness and facelessness, for in fact it is one of the most open forms of government existing today. There can seldom have been a governmental-type system which publishes more information about itself and its activities, or is more open to lobbying. Indeed, in its eagerness to make contact with its public and to by-pass national governments, the Commission positively encourages sectional interests to come to Brussels to lobby it.

This openness is, of course, partly due to the fact that Eurocrats, unlike national civil servants, do not have to worry about parliamentary privilege. Also, of course, there is an inverse correlation between openness and power. The most powerful departments of state in any government are usually the most secretive—an obvious example being the British Treasury. The Commission's eagerness to enter into dialogue about policy-making is partly a reflection of its basic impotence.

Nevertheless, it is a fact, and it is one which British institutions in particular have been slow to recognize, that the Commission's accessibility (allowing of course for possible problems of language difficulties), fewer in number less constrained by their political masters. And the best of them recognize the limits of their knowledge of member countries other than their own and are eager to broaden their experience.

So part of the responsibility for bridging the communications gap rests with the pressure groups in the nation-state and regions, who are too prone to stay at home and complain about the Commission's remoteness and ignorance.

Part rests with the Commission itself, because of its inexperience in communications and its unhappy lack of present proposals in arcane legal language which conceals their reason and relevance; and, perhaps with the national governments, which find the Commission a convenient whipping boy when things are going badly, and who have no wish to see it as a possible rival: public esteem in their own countries.

A significant responsibility too, rests with the mass media who tend to press it all issues in terms of conflict between clashing national interests—a "zero-sum" game, which winners have to be balanced by losers in which *winismo* is the only rule. It is time, therefore, that a collective effort to create a European Community from which in the end all may benefit.

The result of all this is that we are fashioning a Community which is *psychologically* more open than its full potential because of debilitating internal jealousies: a forum in which Britons, Frenchmen, Germans and Italians nuzzle over privileged bargains instead of learning from the Europeans the art of bargaining with a common goal in mind which have gone into creating the edifice it seems a pity to use it better.

Michael Shan

The Third World, missing out again

When more than 350 delegates from 35 countries assemble in London next week, the occasion will highlight the fact that the growth area for the consumer movement is no longer in America, where the pioneering initiatives were taken, or in Europe, where consumerism has become inextricably involved with the Establishment bureaucracy.

The ninth world congress of the International Organization of Consumer Unions is devoted to the theme of a world in crisis, concentrating on the issues of food and energy shortages, poverty and starvation. Inevitably it will lack representatives from all the countries where those problems are most immediately felt. The impoverished Third World cannot afford the luxury of even the most basic consumer protection, let alone the indulgence of sending people to London to talk about it over coffee and biscuits.

Yet equally the congress will lack the participation of the Swedes, the most consumer-conscious society in the developed western world and the only one with any claim to have made consumer education an entrenched part of its national cultural heritage.

The consumer organization in Sweden is so intimately bound up with government, and has such a comparatively enormous budget, that its continued mem-

bership of IOCU would bring it a bill for affiliation dues out of all tolerable proportions to the country's size.

The people who will most noticeably be present in large numbers at the London shenanigans will be those whose industry has most recently won them a measure of consumer choice. The growth area of the consumer movement is among the hard-working productive peoples of south-east Asia, and countries such as Hongkong, Singapore, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines.

In recognition of the fast developing interest in consumer questions in such countries IOCU set up a regional office for Asia and the Pacific in 1974. It is now based in Penang. An increasing amount of work for the British Consumers' Association's testing laboratories is carried out on behalf of consumer organizations abroad. It was for the Filipinos, for example, that the laboratory which ordinarily service Whizz? magazine found that while none of them could be legally marketed as whisky in Britain, their taste was often preferred to Scotch.

Similarly the Filipinos were able to have Wrangler jeans withdrawn from their market after tests in Britain had shown that although they were labelled as 100 per cent cotton, they in fact included synthetics.

More recently Whizz? has been testing outboard motors for its own purposes, and simultaneously for the Filipinos

and others. The exercise nicely pointed the differences in consumer needs in societies so far removed from each other.

While the British boasting public look for high standards from something that is most usually an expensive plaything, the Pijian fisherman looks on an easily maintained and reliable motor adaptable to the most adverse conditions, as essential to his livelihood.

No one in the movement imagines that international co-operation between consumer movements yet goes far enough. There have been some signal successes—but it is still often true that one country's consumer triumph becomes another's problem.

Children's nightwear subjected to a carcinogenic treatment in the United States reappeared for sale in France. The French consumers, alerted by American colleagues, protested to high performance. The sales banned. No one in the consumer world is certain where the stocks are being sold now.

Even within the British Isles, the Irish consumers complain that Eire has been made a dumping ground for electrical goods that no longer satisfy safety codes in the north.

But by and large consumers in the developed nations are comparatively well protected now. In America the business lobbies have been vigorously, and successfully, promoting a backlash against consumerism among a public who are becoming more cost-conscious than concerned. In Europe the bureaucratic complexities in-

volved in attempting to harmonize consumer laws between EEC member states have invited ridicule.

In the Third World, though, there are still life and death issues at stake. Adulterated foods kill hundreds in India. Insecticides banned for crop spraying in the West for decades are still used with little discrimination in poorer countries.

Third World smokers are cajoled to enjoy cigarettes of tar contents that would not be marketed in Britain by advertisements that would also not be permitted here.

An Indian housewife is not contented to know whether any particular detergent really does wash whiter. It may be more vital for her to know how much of it her upstream neighbours have rinsed out into what has to become her family's drinking water.

The IOCU conference will be an opportunity for Britain to show off and boast about its consumer protection system and the latest legislation, which with customary complacency we generally imagine to be the best in the world.

At the same time it is bound to raise the question repeatedly of how apt such systems can possibly be to meet the problems that confront people in other parts of the world whose standards of living are so low that they barely begin to qualify for the description "consumer" at all.

Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

Help yourself...

Gas is clean, controllable, versatile and economical—the ideal domestic fuel. That's why nearly 14 million customers have chosen gas to heat their homes and cook their meals.

But like all fuels it should be used wisely. We have a booklet that can help you.

Among many important items it covers:

- What to do if you suspect a gas leak.
- The laws on gas safety.
- How to have your appliances properly installed and regularly serviced.
- Help for the disabled.

So help yourself to gas safety—pick up a free copy at your local gas showroom. **BRITISH GAS**

HELP YOURSELF TO GAS SAFETY



Fireworks take over from patriotic orations

We are told that in the good old days, before the invention of sliced bread and television, the Fourth of July was celebrated in a proper style. The local band played patriotic airs in the square, there was a parade down the main street, some in-sufferable snoot-nose from the high school recited the Declaration of Independence and the local politician made a Patriotic Oration.

Somehow these speeches slipped into the popular vocabulary as an image of all that was pompous and ridiculous. The politicians stopped giving them, children stopped waiting to declaim, and the traditional celebration faded away.

In these dull and un-patriotic days, things are therefore different. There are still parades: the local children sometimes bedeck their bicycles with ribbons and follow a fire-engine around the block a couple of times. The main thing, however, is fireworks.

For a country obsessed with technology, America is surprisingly contented with simple things in matters pyrotechnical. The rockets go up, burst in swarms and boom most gratifyingly. It is all rather repetitive and slow, not at all the sort of spectacular show put on by the French.

There is plenty of backyard fireworks, but various killjoys prevent the bonfires and fireworks endeavours of Guy Fawkes Day. The best place to avoid restriction is in the centre of town on the Mall, where directly placed firecrackers can still be used to traditional effect on picnickers, lovers and frisbee players, without the uniformed killjoys having any chance of interfering.

The Mall stretches from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, with Washington's obelisk in the middle. This is where America's official celebrations take place and the crowds were out on Tuesday to enjoy the fun.

The Smithsonian Institution, the national mummy, tried to recreate the traditional Fourth of July this year, with a variety of activities in one of its museums.

A life-and-drum band, dressed in appropriately scruffy eighteenth-century uniform, paraded around a couple of barber-shop quartets sang such immortal classics as "Black-eyed Susie" and "Those Daring Young Men in their Flying Machines". There were a couple of bands and patriotic declamations.

Somewhere read the Declaration of Independence as though it was all totally new to him, reminding people of just why old-fashioned Fourth went out of style, and a pavement artist drew portraits of various notables on the marble floor. Thousands of people milled

around the museum, buying balloons and ice-cream and trying not to lose their children, but museums are not really the right places for national celebrations. It was more fun on the Mall, even if there was nothing to do except queue for hot dogs and ice-cream and balloons and wait for the evening. A few score thousand people spent an agreeable afternoon doing no more than that.

The White House is off to the side of the Mall, and a large party gathered on its lawns to see the fireworks and the resident performers. Visiting experts judged Amy's celebrated barbecue as unexciting and uninteresting but found other things to be excited about.

"Daddy, daddy, I got them both, the President and the Vice-President."—And what did you do with them when you got them, dear?—I shook their hands and I'm never going to wash again."

The people there were the White House staff, some reporters, and their hordes of children. Mr Carter was mobbed on his own lawn just as though he was out campaigning in rural Georgia. Mrs Carter remained sensibly out of reach on a balcony.

That children should mob the President is understandable enough, but that members of the White House staff and their

wives should behave in that way was very odd.

The Yippies had given up by then. They were to have staged a great demo throughout Washington over the weekend, culminating in an attempt to get themselves arrested by the thousand for possessing marijuana, after staging a giant "smoke-in" opposite the White House.

The smoke-in was rained out. A few unhappy Yippies were to be seen, from time to time, huddling together in the pouring rain. On one occasion, during a brief interval in the rain, a score of them gathered to cheer one of their number while the megaphone he had nounced the laws against marijuana fields in Mexico weed-killers. The police treated them with condescending indifference, which must have been most galling.

The Carters spent the weekend in Camp David, a country estate in the mountains near where President Nixon's son-in-law. They must have had a terrible time of it, with the woods, like millions of other Americans whose first week of holiday was ruined by the weather. They returned for the Fourth in Washington, and I wonder.

"We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed with a megaphone of certain unalienable Rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. The Colonies actually voted themselves independent on July 2 and the document was signed much later, but—an example of American indifference to pedantic accuracy—historical knowledge—Jefferson became the national spokesman for the Declaration of Independence was formally approved by Congress on that date.

Patrick Brogan

It now seems all but certain people will be able to determine standard they a

July 5.



COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
July 6: The Duke of Kent arrived at the Palace of Holyroodhouse this morning.

Mr Robert Forthingham, the winner of the annual shooting event of the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and received the Queen's Prize.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Duke of Kent and Captain Alexander and the Hon Mrs Ramsay were present.

The Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers, under the command of the Captain-General, Colonel the Earl of Selkirk, Gold Stick for Scotland, was on duty.

The High Constable of the Palace of Holyroodhouse were on duty.

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland and the Regimental Band of the Royal Highland Fusiliers played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Fountainsbridge Housing Association at 17 Watson Crescent, Edinburgh, and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh.

Kenneth Borthwick, the Right Hon the Lord Provost.

His Royal Highness later visited the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, 17 Watson Crescent, Edinburgh, where he was accompanied by the Lord-Lieutenant, Kenneth Borthwick, the Right Hon the Lord Provost.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess Anne, Her Mark

Phillips was present this evening at a Special Dinner at Le Monde, Folies, Dorset Street, in aid of the National Society for Autistic Children.

Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke and Major Nicholas Lawson were in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 6: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The King's Regiment, today presented the 1st Battalion of the Regiment at Colchester.

Her Majesty travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy, Captain Alastair Aird and Captain Jeremy Maitland-Burton were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 6: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Exhibition "A Right to Vote" at Westminster Hall.

The Hon Mrs Willis was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
JULY 6: The Duke of Kent this morning laid a wreath at the Scots Greys Memorial in Princes Street, Edinburgh, and took the Salute at the Drive Past of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

His Royal Highness was subsequently entertained at luncheon by the Officers of the Regiment at Redford Cavalry Barracks.

The Duke of Kent this evening dined with The Royal Company of Archers (The Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland) at Archers' Hall in Edinburgh.

Captain James Greenfield was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Spastics Society, attended the Drive Past of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards at the Variety Club of Great Britain at the Leicester Square Theatre.

Miss Jane Pugh was in attendance.

Viscount and Viscountess Boyd of Merton regret that they were unable to attend the memorial service for Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, QC, on Wednesday.

The Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, Sir Alan Cottrell, and Lady Cottrell represented the university at the memorial service for Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, QC, on Wednesday.

Regent Mass will be celebrated for Lord Selwyn-Lloyd at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, on Thursday, July 6, at 2.30 pm.

Sir Anthony Duff represented the Diplomatic Staff for Lord Selwyn-Lloyd, QC, on Wednesday; not the Diplomatic Corps as stated.

BIRTHDAYS TODAY
Sir John G. N. Brown, 62; QC, Honorary Sir Walker, 62; QC, 79; Lord Tennant, 79; Lord Gifford, 79; Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Harris, 68; Mr Tony Jacklin, 34; Lord Mals, 67; the Hon Sir Henry Russell, 72; Mr Kelvin Spencer, 60; Sir Richard Turnbull, 69; Admiral Sir Frank Twiss, 68.

MEETING
British Red Cross Society
Baroness Hyton-Foster, president of the London branch, British Red Cross Society, welcomed members and guests to the annual branch meeting held at County Hall yesterday.

Miss G. E. Morgan, Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council, presided. The annual report was presented by Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, branch director, and the finance report by Mr D. V. Bonsor. An address was given by Mr Paul A. Adams, director, International aid, British Red Cross Society.

LATEST APPOINTMENTS
Latest appointments include: The following: regional health authorities: Mr George Chetwynd, Northern; Sir Arthur South, East Anglian; Mr Gordon Roberts, Oxford; Mr John Taylor, South Eastern; Mr A. C. Taylor, aged 52, a Sutton borough councillor, to be chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, in succession to Mr Jack Smart; Mr Irwin Bellow, of Leeds, to be vice-chairman of the A.M.A.; deputy chairman to be John Taylor, of West Midlands; Mr John Hanscomb, of Bolton, and Mr Peter Bowness, of Croydon.

MILITARY COLLEGE BSes
The following, who have successfully completed the appropriate courses at the Royal Military College of Science, have been awarded the degree of BSc with first-class honours by the Council for National Academic Awards.

Qualified students: Mr R. A. Edwards VI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards VII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards VIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards IX, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards X, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XIV, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XV, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XVI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XVII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XVIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XIX, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XX, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXIV, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXV, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXVI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXVII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXVIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXIX, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXX, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXXI, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXXII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. Edwards XXXIII, Walsby, 21; Mr R. A. 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Trade union attitudes to pay policy, page 21

Price panel report implies state industries based increases on inflated costs

By Christopher Wilkins

The Price Commission has published a highly critical report of the accounting system adopted by the South of Scotland Electricity Board, a system widely followed by other nationalised concerns.

Its report implies that state-owned industries may have been understating their true profits, perhaps to the extent of hundreds of millions of pounds, and raising their prices on the basis of inflated costs.

The Commission focuses on the depreciation policies adopted by the SSEB for the first time in 1977/8 under the provisions of the 1976 price code. These showed the historic cost depreciation charge to be inflated by 10 per cent to cover inflation, with the result that costs were increased by 4 per cent over the 1976/7 level.

These extra costs have been passed on as part of price rises averaging 7.5 per cent which were introduced with the Commission's approval at the end of last year.

But the Commission has no doubt that the SSEB's profits were inflated by the depreciation charge, and also because the cost of the assets used in both depreciation and in-

terest charges are built into the price.

"We consider that enhancement of the charge for depreciation by 40 per cent of that calculated on the historic cost basis is not appropriate for pricing purposes for the SSEB."

Its argument is that if depreciation is to be increased to allow for inflation, a gearing adjustment should also be made to allow for the decline in the real cost of repaying borrowing which also results from inflation. In SSEB's case, as for several other utilities including the rest of the electricity industry, gas, rail and the Post Office, borrowing accounts for virtually the whole of operating capital, and gearing adjustment would therefore cancel out the higher depreciation charge.

The SSEB accounts for roughly 10 per cent of British electricity supply, so if the appropriate gearing adjustment were to be made elsewhere in the industry and among other nationalised concerns the effect could be to raise total reported profits by hundreds of millions of pounds. This could in turn raise questions about whether some recent and planned price increases could be justified.

The report is critical of the SSEB in three other respects. First, it says the board has consistently used conservative asset lives for calculating depreciation.

By writing off assets in less than the expected operating lives it has thus increased the depreciation charge even before the subsequent 40 per cent uplift. "We do not consider that this is appropriate in a relatively low risk industry."

Secondly, it says the board is wrong not to capitalize interest which arises during the construction of new plant. "This policy has the effect that current consumers will be paying in advance for part of the cost of major developments, such as the proposed nuclear station at Torness. We consider that this is a case where it would be appropriate to capitalize interest during the construction period."

Thirdly, it is critical of the SSEB's failure to give detail about its £10m contingency provision for 1978/9. "In our view the use of contingencies without estimates without disclosure of their nature and amount may account for virtually the whole of the difference between actual performance and the figures disclosed in the accounts. Therefore we suggest that any contingency provisions be more fully disclosed in future."

Last night, in response to the report, Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pointed out that the recent White Paper on Nationalized Industries had said financial targets for the industries would be set as soon as possible.

These would determine the general level of prices and the effect could be to raise general policy objectives including consideration of social, sectoral and counter inflation policies. The Government supported moves towards a standard for inflation accounting, but until there was one the 10 per cent depreciation uplift would be retained.

He said both the Government and the SSEB agreed with the Commission on the question of capitalizing interest during the construction of the Torness power station.

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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Lufthansa boost for newest European airbus

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Lufthansa, the West German national airline, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding to buy 25 of the new version of the A300 airbus, the B10. This provides a big boost for efforts to build up the European aircraft industry as a competitor to aerospace leaders in the United States.

The preliminary contract is for 10 B10s, worth £129m, with a further 15 options to buy. The first would be delivered to Lufthansa in late 1982.

A decision to authorize a start on the B10 by the partner governments of France and West Germany, mainly concerned in the Airbus Industrie consortium developing the existing 300-seater version of the airbus, has been awaited for some time. The B10 is a scaled-down version, seating 200.

But with a first customer of the size and importance of Lufthansa, that decision cannot now be long delayed. Lufthansa said yesterday that the approval of governments was expected "without delay", and the airline expected to sign the final purchase agreement by March 31 next.

Lufthansa's decision to buy, and the governmental approval which must follow, will bring renewed and immediate pressure on the British Government to make up its mind on whether to join the airbus consortium as a full partner. It is an offer made on frequent occasions recently by the European partners.

British Aerospace produces the wing for the existing versions of the airbus on a subcontractual basis, but unless Britain joins the consortium, the wing for the B10, which is of a new design with advanced aero-dynamics, will be produced in Europe. Holland, which is an airbus partner, is thought the likeliest candidate, along with Spain.

A British decision on rejoining is bound up with the great debate now nearing its climax on whether Britain should develop the next 160-180-seater airliner in partnership with United States or European companies.

The B10 can be seen as a move towards developing a family of European airliners with the JET 2, a 160-seater design, as the next stage.

The decision to go ahead with the B10 puts Europe in a stronger position in negotiations with Britain, while also making it more self-sufficient as an aircraft manufacturer if Britain does decide to go in with the United States.

Sales of the existing B2 and B4 versions of the A300 airbus are going exceptionally well, with no competing aircraft from America. Just over 100 have now been sold.

Air France, Iberia of Spain, Swissair, and Eastern, the major United States airline which has already bought the

existing airbus, have all expressed keen interest in the B10.

The new version will compete for sales with the proposed Boeing 767 200-seater, and Airbus Industrie is locked in a fierce battle with Boeing for a vital order for up to 65 aircraft from United Airlines, the Chicago-based carrier which is the biggest airline in the western world.

Lufthansa said last night that its B10s would be powered by General Electric of America's CF6-45 engines, and would replace Boeing 727s on European routes.

British Aerospace received orders worth £20m from Airbus Industrie yesterday for the completion of a further 16 sets of wings for the present generation of airbuses, and authority to order wing materials which will take the assembly line up to aircraft number 148.

Dutch head unrest over monetary plan for EEC

Continued from page one

Britain maintains that the Common Agricultural Policy operates adversely in this respect since already rich countries like Germany get more help from the policy than many of their weaker partners.

It was apparent, even before the EEC summit got under way, that the Dutch, who were upset by what they considered inadequate consultation on the Franco-German currency plan.

These accusations were vigorously denied by German sources, who said that letters had been sent to other EEC leaders after the crucial meeting last month in Hamburg on monetary affairs between Herr Schmidt and President Giscard.

The letters had been followed up by the dispatch of personal emissaries.

The discontent of the small countries was by no means unwelcome to Mr Callaghan, who has the most doubts about the Schmidt-Giscard plan. The Prime Minister has no intention of being ambitious on agreement on an ambitious new currency scheme, and he will urge the need for full discussion by all the Nine of its implications.

Mr Callaghan said he was prepared to play a constructive role. But he still had to be currency scheme would be durable, would make a genuine contribution to more growth, would be backed by sufficient reserves and fend off speculative attacks and would allow real changes in economic performance to be reflected in periodic exchange rate adjustments.

The most that can be expected from the meeting looks like being a declaration of intent by the Nine to continue studying various schemes without committing themselves at this stage to participating in any particular plan.



An informal chat before lunch yesterday for (left to right) Mr Leo Tindemans, Belgian Prime Minister, Herr Helmut Schmidt, West German Chancellor, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, French President, and Signor Giulio Andreotti, Italian Prime Minister.

Specifically Mr Jenkins called on Germany to increase its deficit spending by about 1 per cent of gross national product or by about DM1,200m to 1,300m (about £300m).

Herr Schmidt rejected this demand claiming that it would lift Germany's budget deficit to 5.5 per cent of gross national product from the already high level of 4.5 per cent. It would also risk pushing up interest rates thus adding to German industry's costs and making the Deutsche mark more attractive to speculators.

It seems that President Giscard was the only leader to support Herr Schmidt on this point.

He agreed with Mr Jenkins that France could consider running a bigger budget deficit.

As far as the Commission is concerned, the main impulses for faster growth in the immediate future must come from Germany and, to a lesser extent, from France. Germany, it is argued could boost its growth by 1 to 1.5 per cent over the next year through tax cuts and maintenance of present levels of public spending.

There also appears to be little chance of any firm declaration emerging from the Bremen meeting on the other crucial subject of what action should be taken to achieve more economic growth.

Although a paper issued by Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, estimated that coordinated stimulatory policies could create 1 per cent more growth in the EEC over the next year Herr Schmidt made clear that he was not prepared to subscribe to any quantitative targets.

Currency link doubts spur dollar

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

A feeling that the Bremen summit would end with no decisive action to link European currencies caused a dollar recovery throughout Europe yesterday.

The pound was one of the least affected of the European currencies, possibly because there had been no speculative buying of it in anticipation of early membership of a European currency link-up.

Sterling closed at \$186.75, down a quarter of a cent against the dollar, but its effective exchange rate went up from 61.4 per cent of its 1971 level to 61.6 per cent.

The dollar gains were greatest against those currencies which had gone ahead very strongly earlier in the week. It gained two yen to close at 203 yen to the dollar and over a pence to close at 2.0665 marks. There was also a strong recovery against both the Swiss and French francs.

Most dealer sentiment still seems fairly bearish for the dollar and there were pessimistic estimates of United States inflation during the day's trading. However, hopes that there might be a reduction in American energy imports gave the dollar some support and there was initial profit taking by those who sold dollars earlier in the week to start the recovery off.

US growth forecast scaled down

From David Cross
Washington, July 6

America's Administration has added to the growing concern about the future direction of the country's economy by revising downwards earlier, more optimistic, forecasts.

In its annual mid-year review of the economy, the White House Budget Office said today that the outlook for the present calendar year and 1979 was for higher inflation and lower real growth than was forecast at the beginning of the year.

Unemployment, however, would continue to decline slightly during the period covered by the report.

It was stressed that the forecasts demonstrated the pressing need to find ways to control inflation. "If the rates of inflation in the 6 to 7 per cent range were to continue, the prospects for economic growth would be very slim," the report goes on.

According to the up-dated forecasts, the rate of inflation is expected to be 7.2 per cent this year and 6.5 per cent next year. This compares with estimates of 6.1 per cent and 6 per cent respectively in January.

On the growth front the increase in real gross national product at 4.1 per cent, against the 4.7 per cent predicted in January. The forecast for 1979 has been revised down from an original 4.8 per cent growth to 4.3 per cent.

Further, the Administration predicted that unemployment would continue to edge downward to some 5.9 per cent of the working population by the final quarter of this year, and to 5.6 per cent by the end of 1979.

News on the budget front is more cheering. The forecast for the deficit for the current fiscal year ending September 30 has been trimmed from \$33,000m (about £28,340m) to \$31,000m for next year from \$59,600m to \$48,500m.

Most of the decline in the scale of the projected deficits is due to President Carter's

recent decision to reduce his original tax cut by some \$10,000m.

Nevertheless, the Budget Office is still unhappy about the current estimates of outlays for the 1980 fiscal year. The expected deficit of \$42,100m for that year, compared with the \$37,500m forecast in January is "unacceptably high", the report says.

It promised that the spending and deficit figures would be reduced "substantially" by the time the 1980 budget is sent to Congress next January.

The new forecasts are in line with recent pronouncements by leading economists in the Administration like Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary.

Money supply up: The United States basic money supply—M1—rose to a seasonally-adjusted average of \$349,900m in the week ended June 28 from \$349,200m the previous week. The broader M2 money supply known as M2 increased to an average of \$841,900m in the week from \$839,400m a week ago.

Mooloya bid breached takeover rule

By Michael Prest

Mooloya Investments has committed serious breaches of the Takeover Code during its offer for Customatic Manufacturing, the Manchester maker of stretch covers, the Takeover Panel ruled late last night.

The ruling, made under section 36 of the Takeover Code forbidding the offeror to make any offer to shareholders on terms to be offered to some shareholders but not to others, is believed to be a precedent.

The Panel directed that the offer may proceed on condition that no procurement fee should be paid to purchasers of Customatic shares, and that if the offer becomes unconditional Mooloya should pay an extra 10 per cent share to shareholders who take up the offer.

Grindley Brander, which is divesting Customatic, will issue Mooloya is offering for each Customatic share 20p of convertible loan stock, or 20p cash.

Swan break-up plans expected by year end

By Richard Allen

Plans to break up Swan Hunter, following nationalisation of the United Kingdom shipbuilding assets, are expected to be put to shareholders before the end of the year.

"Swan" confirmed yesterday that the payment of £15m government compensation revealed earlier this week should enable the group to proceed with the reconstruction plan outlined in its June 1977 accounts.

Under this scheme, Swan intends to place itself in liquidation and to float a new public company containing its remaining ship-repairing and engineering interests. Shareholders would receive equity in the new company as well as a cash distribution.

It is estimated that the cash dividend could be as much as 140p a share. However, a spokesman for Swan said yesterday: "This will be an extremely complex scheme and it is too early to estimate the

funding requirements of the new company."

Earlier this year Swan revealed that half-year profits, including income on cash assets of more than £20m, had fallen from £2.84m to £1.14m. It said that losses in its remaining ship-repairing interests were likely to amount to £1.1m for the full year.

The group hopes the new company will start its stock market life early next year "at least in a break-even position".

The first major group to settle full compensation terms with the Government, Swan said yesterday that it regarded the payment as satisfactory, "taking into account the onerous provisions of the Act on which the compensation amounts had been based."

News of the terms sparked off some stock market interest in other groups still negotiating with the Government, including Vickers, Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft. Swan returned from suspension with a gain of 11p to 140p.

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Scottish & Newcastle selling its French leisure offshoot for £1m plus royalties

By Our Financial Staff

Scottish & Newcastle reweries has decided to pull out of Golf St Cyrien, its ill-starred leisure project in the south of France.

The group revealed yesterday that it had reached agreement to sell the venture to Société Etrusque de Participation et de Développement, a Paris-based group whose main activity is the Flaine ski resort in the French Alps.

S & N is to receive about £1m cash and a royalty agreement worth up to £1m over the next five years for the total cost of the group of pulling out is expected to be £5.75m in S & N's test accounts.

Together with running losses since the project began in 1972, including a deficit of £629,000 last year, the scheme has cost S & N about £5.75m.

S & N said yesterday that the affairs of this leisure and real estate complex near Perpignan "have been of concern to the board for some time, both because of the losses incurred and because of the amount of management effort involved."

Sale of the complex forms part of a reorganization of S & N which started with the appointment of Mr Robert King, former chairman of Metal Box, as the brewery group's chief executive last summer.

Earlier this year the group sold off another of its loss-

making diversification projects. Del Monte Kitchens, to Ross Foods, and is now concentrating on attempting to stem the decline in its beer trade.

In the year to April 30, the group's pre-tax profits rose fractionally to £35.4m and it revealed that ale and lager volume dropped 4 per cent.

The group spent £45m last year, including the purchase of the Kensington Palace Hotel, and is planning to spend a similar amount this year, mainly on improving its distribution network and public house and hotel renovation.

After the news S & N's shares fell 3p to 62p.

Financial Editor, page 21

BREMNER & CO. LTD.

Highlights from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Bremner, for the year ended 31st January, 1978:

- * Although sales increased, profits before taxation show a decrease compared with the previous year. The principal reasons for this decrease are the reduction in interest received because of the substantial fall in interest rates and the continued effect of the escalation in overhead costs outwith our control.
- * The profit before taxation amounts to £462,604 compared with £583,173 last year whilst Corporation Tax reduces this profit by £238,466 which leaves a balance after tax of £224,138 for the year ended 31st January, 1978.
- * Future Prospects: Since the commencement of the current year, the increase in Sales has been satisfactory. It is to be hoped that this will be maintained throughout the year and overheads can be contained.

How the markets moved

The Times index : 199.44 -0.48
The FT index : 452.1 +0.1

Rises

Dowty Grp	7p to 20 1/2p
Guinness Pet	5p to 23 1/2p
Guthrie Grp	11p to 34 1/2p
ICI Gas	12p to 38 1/2p
Manche Liners	5p to 22 1/2p
MRT Farm	6p to 10 1/2p
Milford Docks	6p to 8 1/2p
Plaxtons	8p to 8 1/2p

Falls

EP	8p to 8 1/2p
De Beers Ltd	9p to 35 1/2p
Finlay J.	7p to 37 1/2p
Hawesley	10p to 20 1/2p
Kinross	8p to 36 1/2p
Oil Exploration	6p to 21 1/2p

Raybeck Ltd	5p to 50p
Shaw Carpets	5p to 37p
Swan Hunter	11p to 140p
Swire Pacific 'A'	51p to 168 1/2p
Textured Jersey	2p to 23p
Western Sydn	17p to 97p
Westland Air	2p to 33p
Yarrow & Co	5p to 25 1/2p

Phoenix	6p to 22 1/2p
Royal	5p to 33 1/2p
San Alliance	8p to 50 1/2p
Thermal Sydn	17p to 97p
Western Areas	17p to 155p
Winkelhaak	16p to 71 1/2p

Gold edged 51.75 an ounce to \$182.625.
SDR-6 was 1.24640 on Thursday, while SDR-2 was 0.66629.
Commodities: Reuters index was at 1455.0 (previous 1458.8).
Reports pages 22 and 24

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PYRAMID GROUP (Publishers) LIMITED

The 18th Annual General Meeting of Pyramid Group (Publishers) Limited was held yesterday in London. The following is the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. Paul Lewis.

The profit for the year to 31st December 1977 showed a modest improvement over that for 1976 despite the continuing depressed economic situation. The final dividend proposed is the maximum permitted under current legislation.

The year under review has not been uneventful. In July, the purchase of Redlands Printing Company was completed, and you received the circular despatched to shareholders on the 7th February 1978, explaining the details of that acquisition.

The purchase of a controlling interest in Datamail Limited was finalised on 31st October. Consultative Marketing Services Limited (CMS) was incorporated on the 9th November. Datamail offers a personalised direct mail service. CMS is involved in the organisation of special events, exhibitions, seminars and marketing. The amount paid for the formation and purchase of these Companies did not warrant a special dividend. In conjunction with the other activities of your Group, they form part of a logical development in the field of communications in its broadest sense.

The subsidiaries in your Group now embrace activities including that of publishing, advertising contracting, printing both letterpress and lithographic, as well as those mentioned above. Thus I believe clients can be offered complementary services in any one or more of the fields in which we operate.

In previous statements mention has been made of the efforts to further our expansion both by developing internally and examining new ventures, and I can assure you that this will continue.

I am sure that it would be your wish that I should thank all members of our staff who have given of their best during a year in which much has been requested of them.



Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Publicity House, Streatham Hill, London SW2 4TR.

In brief

Japan buys 30pc more foreign cars

Tokyo, July 6.—Sales of imported cars in Japan rose 30.1 per cent last month to 4,524 from June, 1977. This compared with 4,367 in May, the Japan automobile importers association said.

The June sales bring the cumulative total for the first six months of this year to 24,280—up 16.3 per cent from the corresponding 1977 period. Out of the six-month total, 12,840 were small cars, mostly from West Germany, Britain, France and Italy.—Reuter.

House completions below May 1977 level

Builders started work on 24,900 houses and flats in Britain during May, compared with 26,700 in the same month last year. There were 23,900 completions, 2,200 down on May, 1977.

After adjustments, starts in March to May were up 5 per cent on the previous three months and 1 per cent higher than in March to May last year. The private sector is showing most buoyancy. In the three-month period to May, private starts were 10 per cent up on the months December to February.

L. M. Ericsson gains \$23m Kuwait order

L. M. Ericsson, the Swedish company, has received a \$23m (about £12.1m) order for telecommunications equipment from the government of Kuwait. The order includes the delivery and installation of three computer-controlled telephone exchanges of the axe type. Since 1965, L. M. Ericsson has received orders for telephone exchanges from Kuwait up to a total of 270,000 lines.

Successful bidders for IMF gold named

Washington, July 6.—The International Monetary Fund today identified the 19 successful bidders at this week's gold auction. Altogether 797,200 ounces were sold at an average price of \$184.14 (just under £11) an ounce. Mauritius and Cyprus together acquired 20,800 ounces of gold through the non-competitive bidding procedures.

The 19 other buyers, who receive 470,000 ounces included: Alexander Trust Co, Zurich; Amark Previous Metals, Inc, Beverly Hills, California; J. Aron and Co, New York; Bank Leu, Zurich; Dresdner Bank of Frankfurt; and two affiliates in Luxembourg and Singapore.

Other buyers were: Degussa, the German metals company; Eastern Trade Corporation, Dubai; Gold Standard Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri; Moccata Metals Corporation, New York.

Election threat to industrial strategy

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Economic progress through the industrial strategy could be threatened by an election battle, Mr Geoffrey Chandler, the new director-general of the National Economic Development Office said yesterday.

Mr Chandler, who was making his first public appearance in his new role at the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association's annual luncheon, said he had been encouraged by the statements of both Government and Opposition that continuity was seen as vital to Britain's recovery. But he saw a potential danger in the industrial strategy becoming involved in an election battle.

Answering criticisms about NEDO, Mr Chandler said that economic recovery would take many years and that "people may tire of something that by its very nature cannot bring dramatic results".

The tripartite concept is not a partisan issue, he stressed. "Its application has been sharpened by the approach to an industrial strategy and is proving a technique for tackling our problems which we cannot afford to jeopardize."

Apart from political issues, there were risks from the scepticism of people who believe that "only visible action is progress, and who ignore the conditioning of a climate and are not prepared to stay the course". There is also potential danger from scepticism deriving from ignorance of what was being done.

"There is no simple overall cause and no simple overall solution to our economic decline", he went on. The tripartite dialogue of the industrial strategy, for which NEDO is the implementing agent, has, in Mr Chandler's view, clearly identified the complexity of the causes for failure by industry and by sector.

Industrial inadequacies identified by the sector working parties include resource productivity, design, production, marketing, producer-customer relations and a lower value per ton of exports than overseas competitors.

Government praise for the sector working parties came from Mr Leslie Hock-

field, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry. They have already made "genuine progress in identifying areas in which productivity can be increased", he told the Oxford Summer Business School.

Examples of the tasks being carried out include the international comparisons made by the Industrial Trucks sector working party as part of its study of production methods. Management and unions in the Domestic Electrical Appliances SVP have identified constraints on productivity and recommended changes in methods and procedures.

"The Clothing Industry Productivity Programme has been set up as a result of a recommendation by the NEDO's Clothing Economic Development Committee, with the aim of assisting the industry to achieve its full productivity potentials."

Mr Hockfield added that "many SWPs have done excellent work in trying to develop better links between customers and suppliers in order to further import substitution".

Half of IRI's £452m loss blamed on steel

From John Earle

Rome, July 6

Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the vast Italian state-owned conglomerate, today announced record 1977 losses of 722,000m lire (£452m) compared to 427,900m lire in 1976. Depreciation allocations were, however, up by nearly a third, while debt servicing cost 24 per cent more.

The group pointed out in its report that no less than 84 per cent of the losses came from three sectors — steelmaking, shipbuilding, and the Alfa Romeo car manufacturer. The steel losses alone, at 487,900m lire, amounted to more than half of group losses.

Net loss represented the difference between those sectors in profit (122,700m lire) and those in deficit (844,700m lire).

Among profit-makers were banking (57,600m lire), telecommunications (47,300m lire) and the national airline Alitalia (11,200m lire).

IRI recalled that it needed immediately fresh funds amounting to 5,500,000m lire to cover capital investment and recapitalization programmes. This was made up of 3,500,000m lire for recapitalization and one third of the 6,000,000m lire capital investment programme for 1978-79.

The Italian Government is going some way towards this with a Bill presented to Parliament today allocating 1,649,000m lire to replenish the capital funds of the state-owned corporations, including 950,000m lire for IRI.

The rest is shared between ENI, ENIM and the small thermal Spas corporation EGAT.

BSC chairman offers recipe for recovery

By David Felton

Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of British Steel Corporation, last night said that a recipe for success for the ailing industry would be cutting the workforce by more than 70,000 and boosting the pay of those remaining.

BSC, which earlier this week announced record losses of more than £440m, was comparable with the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in America, which produced about the same quantities of steel, Sir Charles said. Best of them with 85,000 steel-making employees paid about £13,500 a year a man, including fringe benefits and pensions, he pointed out, while BSC, with 160,000 steelmaking workers paid on a similar basis £5,500 a man.

"So this is the target we have to shoot at. Fewer people, but much better remuneration", Sir Charles said in an interview with Mr Lew Gardner on the Thames Tele-

vision This Week programme.

He refused to be drawn on the specific number of redundancies required but said: "I have given you the comparison with Bethlehem, and if we could get to higher wages then we would have fewer people, I have no doubt."

Sir Charles reaffirmed the corporation's target of break-even by 1980. When asked by Mr Gardner if he would resign if this objective was not achieved, he replied: "If I have made a lot of mistakes down the road and messed it up, well then I would. But if I was defeated by totally outside circumstances then, no, I would not."

Sir Charles also defended BSC's record of public accountancy. "I think there is great ability in the whole of our attitude to the proprietors of our business who are the people who live in this country."

Tempo stepped up in Tokyo Round talks

From Alan McGregor

Geneva, July 6

Pessimism over the chances of meeting the July 15 Tokyo Round deadline for an outline agreement voiced yesterday in Washington by Mr Robert Strauss, is in on way reflected in the attitude of United States officials here.

Five under secretaries, chaired by Mr Alan Wolff, Deputy Special Trade Representative are meeting here daily. They have full authority to make decisions and carry them out on the spot, Mr Wolff said.

Mr Strauss is due at the weekend, as is Mr Nobuhiko Ushiba, the Japanese delegate.

Mr Strauss's pessimism related to lack of progress on agriculture. The Australian and New Zealand ministers are similarly concerned.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Useful role of home workers

From Mr J. H. Dossor

Sir, I hope the recent Low Pay Unit Report on homeworkers' pay will not cast a shadow on self-employed of this important source of labour. My company employs nearly 100 home-workers and has approximately 50 on the waiting list. Our current piecework rate is based on an hourly time rate of 84p, which is shortly to increase to 92p.

We know that this does not constitute rich pickings by anyone's standards, but those who choose us should bear one or two important facts in mind.

The demand for the products made by homeworkers depends mainly on the existence of a wage differential between factory and home rates—narrow

this too much and the homeworkers' jobs are lost. Most of our homeworkers are women with young families or active retired folk who cannot go outside the home to work but wish to keep busy and add to the family income. They realise that there are few alternative sources of work open to them, especially in rural areas, and many have told me how worried they are that legislation will cause their jobs to disappear.

Our detractors also fail to recognize that the employer has his problems, too. It is an expensive business collecting and delivering work to over 100 households each week and in supervising the standard of work, not to mention the fact that Nellie may have decided to have a week off to do the

garden and an urgent ex-

order has not therefore been completed.

I hope that just because an unscrupulous employer will be able to resist its urge to rush through any employer legislation. This we do untold harm to most of who try to do a fair job of ing more wealth for the country, with the help of those who would otherwise find it difficult to get a job at all.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. DOSSOR,
Managing Director,
Redport Net Co Ltd,
Asker Works,
94 East Street,
Bridport,
Dorset DT6 3LL,
July 5.

Inflation, growth and employment

From Professor Patrick Minford

Sir, May 1 reply to your correspondence (June 30).

Mr Kennedy believes that there are "a dozen contributors to the rate of inflation" apart from the growth of the money supply. He mentions world prices in particular. I do not really disagree if he is talking about proximate contributors. However, the point is that with a floating exchange rate world prices can have no sustained impact unless domestic policies permit them to. The same applies to the rest of his "dozen".

He also argues that policies for lower inflation must mean higher unemployment and that I am ready to accept this as "inevitable". But the point of my argument is that it is not necessary for unemployment to rise for inflation to be curbed. Inflation is stubborn because it is expected to continue. Policies to reduce inflation will have their effect anticipated and this will curtail inflation rapidly.

I do not regard such policies as "dangerous". On the contrary. Experience since 1972 suggests that it is dangerous indeed to pursue higher public sector deficits in an attempt to cut unemployment. Such policies have led both to higher inflation and to higher unemployment.

Neil McKinnon is no doubt right in putting the Buchanan thesis (IEA 1978) that Keynes-

sian policies have been used cynically by politicians to hold power. Under fixed exchange rates policies of this sort may have been advantageous to the party in power, since a "go" engineered on the basis of good reserves or foreign central bank support could avoid devaluation and its "inflationary" consequences. However, it is a long time now too long after the election.

With floating exchange rates the inflationary effects come too quickly for such policies to be anything other than counter-productive. Hence my "optimism" that all parties will see the folly of them.

Mr Cleverley is upset by a mere technicality. I think we can easily agree that no economy ever settles down to a completely steady growth rate. This is not the point. In economics, as in agriculture for example, the concept of a "normal year" is important for formulating projections of what policies imply (whether they be monetary or planning policies). It is simply a question of formulating expectations on the basis that the odds cannot systematically be beaten.

Yours, &c,
PATRICK MINFORD,
Department of Applied Economics,
Department of Economics and Commerce,
Liverpool University,
July 5.

A common insurance market

From the chairman of the British Insurers' European Committee

Sir, The letter from Mr W. C. Harris on freedom of services for insurance in the EEC (June 28) calls for comment because his letter does not represent the agreed views of the insurance industry as a whole.

The British Insurers' European Committee, which represents all British Insurers (Companies and Lloyd's) on EEC insurance matters, has as one of its principal objectives the attainment of a common insurance market.

This will be achieved in two stages: the first, freedom of establishment, has, substantially, been achieved. The second involves the introduction at the earliest practicable date of freedom of services as provided for in the Treaty of Rome; this we have consistently supported.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. SKERMAN,
Chairman,
The British Insurers' European Committee,
Alderman House,
Queen Street,
London EC4P 4JD.

The Revenue and cricket

From Mrs Elizabeth Cosgrove

Sir, If our taxmen have stopped regarding their calling as a game it is a pity. The system used to command honesty, for to return otherwise was not cricket. The Revenue should perhaps remember that in New Testament times publicans, as taxgatherers, were held in disrepute. It is easy to confuse a taxman, unashamed of retrospection, with a sinner.

"Pay As You Earn takes near enough the right amount", may sound honest. But I, and other earners, have no wish to finance a witch hunt. In any case, the luxury of PAYE is apt to end. When one becomes an elderly self-employed odd jobber, disbelief of meagre earnings is the last insult.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH COSGROVE,
118, Kidmore End Road,
Emmer Green,
Reading,
Berkshire.

Company law directive

From Mr G. W. Eccles

Sir, There are several points in your article "Harmonized company law in EEC by 1982" (June 29) relating to the adoption of the Fourth Directive on Company Law which are likely to prove very misleading to your readers.

First, the article states that one of the two key elements of the directive is the rules for the valuation of assets to prevent the distribution of unrealized profits. While this is technically correct in EEC terminology, it should be stated that the term "valuation rules" is being used in a very specialized sense (that is, as the basis of stating items in the accounts) and not in the sense usually employed in the United Kingdom.

Secondly, the article states that the directive ensures that accounts in different member states should now be "broadly

comparable". However, it ignores the fact that the directive provides two alternative forms of balance sheet: four alternative forms of profit and loss account, and that the information required to be stated therein is sometimes different.

Thirdly, your article states that small and medium-sized companies are exempt from the new rules. This is wrong. The directive also member states (if they wish) to derogate from the new rules in the case of small and medium-sized companies. There is no indication as to what the United Kingdom Government will take advantage of this possibility.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. ECCLES,
6 Kinerton Place North,
Kinerton Street,
London SW1,
June 30.

Tax levied retrospectively

From Mr E. E. Williamson

Sir, On June 21 your contributor Margaret Stone referred in the fourth paragraph of her piece ("Is the taxman too powerful?") to proposed retrospective legislation as an unprecedented step.

It would not be unprecedented. A few years ago a 10 per cent surcharge on surtax was imposed retrospectively. Last year, by acting on existing contracts for reverse annuities,

the Chancellor in effect acted retrospectively. Retrospective legislation is not a mere matter of "frisking down the back of those who caused financial matters to start there is the slippery slope which will end rapidly in the pit of the end of our liberties, nothing less."

Yours faithfully,
E. E. WILLIAMSON,
Swancombe,
Clapton-in-Gordale,
Bristol BS20 9RR,
June 24.

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Limited



Results 1978

Preliminary announcement

The audited results for the 52 weeks ended April 30, 1978 were as follows:

	52 weeks ended April 30, 1978	52 weeks ended May 1, 1977
	£000	£000
Turnover	389,549	345,897
Operating profit	35,213	33,732
Associated companies	2,153	2,205
Financial income	1,801	3,586
Financial expenses	(3,789)	(4,410)
Profit before taxation	35,378	35,113
Taxation	6,987	9,407
Earnings after taxation	28,391	25,706
Preference dividend	530	530
Earnings attributable to ordinary shareholders	27,861	25,176
Ordinary dividends	9,661	8,307
	18,200	16,869
Extraordinary item	5,749	—
Retained	12,451	16,869
Earnings per share	10-0p	9-3p

The annual general meeting will be held in Edinburgh on August 17, 1978 at noon. The proposed final dividend will be paid on August 22, 1978 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on July 26, 1978.

* Profit before taxation £35.4 million.

* Earnings per share 10-0p.

* Proposed final dividend 2-05912p per share. Total dividend 3-40912p per share, 10% more than 1977.

* McEwan's Lager successful in Scotland and now being distributed throughout U.K.

* Improved profits in hotels, and wines and spirits.

* Investment in wholesale beer, pubs, hotels, and wines and spirits £45 million.

* Del Monte Kitchens Ltd. sold and full provision made for sale of Golf St Cyprien S.A.

Full deferred taxation has not been provided in the tax charge for the year, and the previous year has been amended accordingly. This follows the principles in the proposed accounting standard ED19. If a full provision had been made for deferred taxation, the earnings per share would have been 6-25p and 6-22p for 1978 and 1977 respectively.

The operating profit includes profit on redemption of debenture capital £183,000 (1977 £436,000).

Associated companies include our share of the loss in Del Monte Kitchens Ltd. £232,000 (1977 £221,000). This business was sold on June 26, 1978.

The operating profit includes a loss of £829,000 (1977 £804,000) by Golf St Cyprien S.A. The extraordinary item is a full provision for the sale of this company on October 1, 1978. The sale was announced on July 6, 1978.

The annual report and accounts will be posted on July 25, 1978. Additional copies can be obtained from the Company Secretary, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries Limited, Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GEC chooses dividend 'moderation'

Pay 1

The decision by the miners yesterday to lead a policy offensive against a fourth year of wage restraint injects a new and uncertain note into Labour's cosy pre-election build-up.

When Mr Callaghan and his senior Cabinet colleagues meet TUC leaders again on July 24 to tie up the loose ends of a statement renewing their "special relationship", it will be against a background of divided trade union opinion.

Mr. Gornley, the miners' president, has a strong nose for politics. A veteran of the fierce factional struggles on Labour's national executive and of grassroots campaigning in Lancashire, he insists that the Cabinet's obsession with incomes policy is alienating the very rank and file activists whose job it is to get out the voters on polling day.

That matters, because the calculation on wage moderation is now political rather than economic. The scene has shifted from talks between the TUC's six-man team on the National Economic Development Council and the Chancellor to the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee, the body set up to ensure that the schism of 1970 is not repeated.

It will be from this joint forum that will emerge what amounts to a draft manifesto for approval by the September Trades Union Congress. The stage is thus set for a rerun of the October 1974 election, with the annual union seaside jamboree pressed into service as a launching platform for Labour's bid to retain office.

United as they are on the need to sustain the Government in power, the "Neddy Six" on wage policy are not uniform. The most influential is Mr David Barnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and fortuitously this year's chairman of the TUC.

He favours a system of TUC guidelines for negotiators determined by congress. These

Loyalties under stress

What can the unions expect in return for another year of self-denial? To what extent will the answer to that question condition their response? In the first of two articles discussing the prospects for a further phase of pay restraint, Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, examines the attitude of the trade unions

In the last two rounds of pay curbs, which the miners swallowed with less relish than their leaders, there were escape routes from coalfield militancy. In 1976, it was the successful campaign for early retirement; last year it was colliery incentive schemes that have given face workers rises of up to £50 a week for extra output.

This time there is no such obvious safety valve to divert pit unrest away from a pay claim that contravenes wage restraint rules. The miners are asking for 40 per cent and nothing in the demeanour of their leaders suggests that they do not mean business.

Ministers can rely, of course, on the public's fear of inflation and the TUC's own policy admission that wages are a contributory factor to it. On top of that is the constant threat that a general election may send Mrs Thatcher to Downing Street armed with a mandate to trim back trade union influence on public policy.

Ironically, the trade union influence has in any event declined recently and politically they have been outflanked on the left by members of Labour's national executive during exchanges in the TUC/Labour Party liaison committee. Mr Callaghan made it clear when that body met earlier this week that the unions will not contribute substantially to the election manifesto.

That being so, what can the unions seriously expect in return for another year of self-denial? And to what extent will the answer to that question condition their response?

It was evident during yesterday's economic debate at the miners' conference that the sense of loyalty to the Government is under strain. Nobody wants confrontation, but equally nobody is prepared to put up with subjugation.

In the second article, to be published next week, David Blake will discuss the economic aspects of pay policy.

British electricity supply industry, in which case the SSEB's overcharging on depreciation might be multiplied by about 10. The multiplier would be much bigger still if extended to cover other nationalized industries which are debt financed. That means all of them except Airways, Steel, Giro, Aerospace and Shipbuilders. The total understatement of profit on the basis of the Price Commission's analysis could therefore run to several hundred million pounds.

The 40 per cent extra depreciation provision was only ever intended to be an interim measure until a standard inflation accounting was introduced. It is inconceivable that such a standard will not incorporate



Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the Price Commission.

ate a gearing adjustment on the Hyde model, and for all that financial targets for nationalized industries are to be fixed on a pre-interest basis, there is a strong possibility that nationalized industries will eventually have to conform to the standard. At the earliest, however, the accountability profession will not agree on a standard until late next year, and in the meantime the Price Commission has no powers to prevent nationalized industries oversteering their costs, and presumably raising their prices accordingly.

Scottish & Newcastle Trading performance is still flat

Reorganization at Scottish & Newcastle continues, but so far there is little evidence that the group has reached a major turning point in terms of its trading performance.

Full-year profits only fractionally up at £35.4m are below outside estimates and reflect a continuing decline in the group's market share south of the border.

Despite growth in Scotland second-half volume sales of ale and lager dropped 4 per cent against an industry gain of something more than that. And now S & N is facing increasing competition in its important free trade operations.

Apart from cutting out niggling losses, reorganization plans have so far served to identify the group's major problems rather than resolve them. Of the group's four newly identified profit centres only the relatively small wines and spirits operations and hotels are thrusting forward.

Profits from wholesale beer sales fell almost £1m last year to £23.2m while managed public houses chipped in a tiny improvement to £7.2m.

S & N is now spending heavily to try to buy back the ground it lost by reacting too slowly to the lager boom. Including its interest in the Harp consortium, lager probably still accounts for only 15 per cent of the group's total output compared with an industry figure of 25 per cent and expectations that this will rise to nearer 40 per cent in the next few years.

Despite an encouraging response to the launch of McKewan's lager in England, the group clearly has a long way to go in its bid to move back alongside the other brewing giants in the race for market share.

Plans for a new brewery in the south are still under consideration and in the meantime S & N is devoting much of its spending effort towards improving distribution as the battle for free trade intensifies. Despite negative cash flow of £20m last year and plans for spending of a further £40m in the current year, the group's balance sheet can comfortably take the strain.

With flat profits in view for perhaps the next two years, then, S & N is leaning as heavily as ever on its "income stock" tag. After yesterday's 3p fall to 62p the shares yield 8.3 per cent—more than two points above the average for major brewers.

Scarecrows and anodes: how the inventor obtains his rewards

The indeterminate nature of a project may require a degree of fanaticism to cause the inventor to carry it to completion

Few builders of better mouse-traps would expect the world to beat paths to their doors

these days, the world's mouse-trap market is not like that. But the old adage raises a controversial point—is there a role for the private inventor at a time when research and development spending is dominated by the large corporations?

Certainly, there is no shortage of private individuals who believe they have important inventions for which the world is waiting. Last year in Britain alone, about 700 of them submitted 708 inventions to the National Research Development Corporation, in company with 715 inventions from public bodies and 357 from private industry. (The corporation also received almost 800 further individual approaches which did not amount to formal submissions.)

But, out of this total of 1,780 submissions, only 194 were accepted; and of these only nine came from private individuals—of which only one or two are likely to succeed in the market place.

The corporation's doyen individual inventor is doubtless Sir Christopher Cockerell, inventor of the hovercraft. Other individual achievements in the history of technology include those of Bell, Edison and the Wright Brothers.

They also include those of Henri Beier, a Dutch-born inventor now working in Belgium, best-known in electro-chemistry for his invention of coated titanium anodes for chlorine-alkali electrolysis. These anodes are now used to produce 50 per cent of the western world's total annual chlorine output.

This highly successful

development (which emerged during the past 10-20 years) is one of Mr Beier's more recent inventions; his earliest, patented in 1925 when he was 16 years old, was a scarcrow (alas, commercially unsuccessful).

In between the scarecrow of 1925 and the coated anodes of the 1960s and 1970s Mr Beier's inventions included detachable burnous for tropical suits, a "super safety pin", a means of improving the quality of cut flowers, and condensation wipers, emergency lights, insecticide spraying equipment, improved razor blades, improved pocket lamps, improved battery charging, continuous removal of carbon dioxide in submarines by electrolysis and the extraction of oxygen from seawater for use in submarines.

Using the financial outcome of 21 of his inventions in a paper presented to the Society of Chemical Industry in Newcastle earlier this week, Mr Beier described only one (the anodes) as providing a "large" return. Three showed a loss, six a "small" return, two were "fair", two were reasonable or satisfactory, three were "good",

three showed no financial or commercial result and one "kept me alive".

Discussing the process of invention and the role of the individual, Mr Beier quotes a United States Department of Commerce study which showed that, although large corporations spend more than 90 per cent of the available research and development funds, they have been responsible for less than 30 per cent of the major inventions of this century.

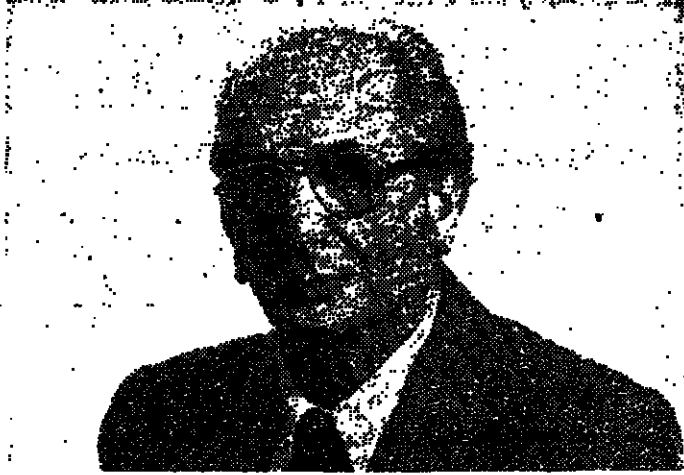
Large corporations concentrate on "normal engineering"—tackling well-defined problems which can be approached in a logical manner and completed in a predictable amount of time within an attainable budget. This is an important part of industrial activity, involving more than 95 per cent of working scientists and engineers.

Major inventions, by contrast, represent "revolutionary engineering", in which intuition plays an important part. Solutions to a revolutionary problem require new insights, new ways of viewing the need and new ways of using existing technology.

Thus, as Mr Beier comments, the search for major inventions is a very low-yield process. Many fail; few succeed. A well-conceived normal engineering project would be expected to have a probability of success well above 80 per cent, with failures represented by near-misses.

Comparable figures for the revolutionary do not exist, but the successes must be measured in very small fractions of 1 per cent. Failures are usually total losses.

In practice there is a broad spectrum of projects ranging from the normal to the revolu-



Mr Henri Beier: "My activities did not make me a rich man."

tionary. But the large organizations keep their R and D activity close to the normal end of the scale, where the prospect of success is high and results can be predicted.

Universities might be expected to provide a more liberal environment in which revolutionary ideas could thrive. "The academic community employs about 40 per cent of the nation's scientists," Mr Beier says, "and receives about 15 per cent of the total research and development budget. They contributed about 1 per cent of the total inventions and a somewhat higher percentage of the breakthroughs."

But to much of the academic community, the inventor's reliance on intuition is unacceptable. Logic and reason are prized, and the pressures for success (measured in the output of publications) are just as great as those in industry.

This gives an opportunity for the individual inventor, either in normal engineering—it will be hard to beat the large institutions at this, their own game, but it can be done—or in revolutionary advances.

Revolutionary inventions may demand more advanced technology, and selling the idea for an industrial organization will be more difficult because larger investments are likely to be needed.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Nationalized industries

Understating profits

The clear implication of the Price Commission report on the South of Scotland Electricity Board is that the finances of the nationalized industries as a whole are in much better shape than their published results show. This may be embarrassing to government. Already the profitability of the state-owned corporations has been showing pronounced recovery—with the obvious exceptions of steel and shipbuilding—a trend likely to be capped by the forthcoming results from the Post Office. If pressures for the rolling back of price rises, or at least the curbing of future planned increases, are to be contained, the claim that profits are being systematically understated will be anything but helpful.

The key lies in the 1976 Price Code, which allowed nationalized industries—and indeed the private sector—to add 40 per cent to their depreciation charges as a very rough and ready form of inflation accounting. In the case of SSEB the effect has been to increase costs by 4 per cent of £17.8m, and this has duly been passed on in the form of higher prices. But what the accounts do not take account of is the fact that SSEB is effectively 100 per cent financed by borrowings, and that a favourable adjustment therefore needs to be made to cover the erosion of the real value of debt as a result of inflation. This is no more than is required under the Hyde guidelines, and in SSEB's case almost offsets the uplift in the depreciation charge.

The same principle applies throughout the

Business Diary: Tours de force • Lew Cartier's schooldays

Another big shake-up in the travel trade is likely after the arrival in Britain of Vingresor, the big Swedish tour operator owned by SAS, the Scandinavian airline.

Vingresor, like the Danish Tjanderberg whose methods provoked hostile trade reaction last spring, bypasses travel agents and sells inclusive holidays direct to the public.

Alan Sinclair, who was headhunted from the Tor-Line ferry company earlier this year to set up and run Vingresor's British venture, is confident he can sell 65 per cent of the holidays he puts on the market by operating a much more flexible price structure than his travel agency related rivals.

In Sweden the company brings out several price lists separately from the main illustrated brochure and prices can go up as well as down, according

to the buoyancy of the market. This year they rose by about 5 per cent, so holiday-makers who booked early got a better deal than latecomers. But, on the principle that any money is better than none, prices could be brought down as ridiculously low as a £1 per head, Sinclair says.

Sinclair has not decided how far to introduce total price flexibility to the British venture because this, like direct booking, is a new concept here.

Lew Cartier, 32, is the latest to show us that bad schooldays sometimes turn into good business. Yesterday he looked out of place at merchant bank Robert Fleming explaining how he comes to be head of perhaps the fastest growing supermarket group in the land. The answer seems to be that he disbelieves what everyone tells him.

He went to secondary modern school at Margate and his headmaster was, he said, glad to let him go before he was 15. His mother wanted him to start work as a butcher's boy on a bicycle.

At school, he told Business Diary: "I worked all the racks, but I had to give a cut to the bully of the school. I was good at making and selling catapults and peashooters." He added: "I don't read books; they only tell you what people 10 years ago did and they are doing something different."

Vingresor's Alan Sinclair.

his top accountancy boffin's job after only one year. He is to become a senior research fellow at the London School of Economics from September.

Succeeding him as technical director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is 36-year-old Robert Willott. He is the youngest person to hold the post.

Willott has been with the institute as secretary of the parliamentary and law committee for two years. In 1969 he became the first editor of the profession's weekly newspaper.

The European Commission will have a man in Swansea tonight to explain what Brussels is doing to help consumers.

So far, it is felt, the public's attention has been focused unfairly on what has been seen as attempts to ban British ice cream, sausages, and milk deliveries, and require lawn mowers to be so quiet that they become useless for cutting grass.

The idea for the meeting, which came from the commission's information directorate, is to take the commission's case beyond capitals and the media and to promote meetings with provincial consumer groups in member states.

Swansea was chosen as the first British venue because it has a new and lively consumer group. The meeting will be addressed by Sidney Freedman,

a recent recruit to Brussels, who is in charge of the commission's legal and economic interests.

Only one such meeting, in Luxembourg last May, has been promoted before. It was some thing of a fiasco. Few people turned up and most of those who did, being German speakers, could not understand what was being said, as the consumer service's German-speaking member could not amend.

Pressure of work has forced Sir Monty Finiston to abandon plans to give the opening paper on "The Car of the Future" at the International Design Engineering Show Conference at Birmingham in December. Fortunately, a suitably intriguing replacement has been found.

Sir Monty has persuaded Derek Whitaker, former Leyland car chief, to fill the vacant spot. Whitaker, now general manager of product development at GKN, resigned last January. He was unwilling yesterday to give any indication of what he will be speaking about in December, although he added, "it should be worth coming along to listen to". During his time at Leyland Whitaker was a forthright defender of the former cars division and its plan for the new Mini.

Lang Hancock, one of the larger than life characters on the international mining scene and discoverer of Mount Tom

Price, Australia's richest iron ore mine, appeared in London yesterday for help in making Malcolm Fraser, Australia's Prime Minister, mend his ways and unshackle his country's mining industry.

Not even Hancock has been able to prevail much on Fraser, it seems. He said yesterday that he had done more than any man in Australia to get Fraser elected, but then Fraser had failed to free the mining industry from various government restrictions.

Hancock is against all restrictions. He does not approve of restrictions on foreign ownership of Australia's natural resources and wants uranium mining to be given the immediate go-ahead.

Of environmental movements, he says: "They are inspired by dedicated communists using the genuine 'do-gooder' people as an unwitting front. Their aim in general is to sabotage the economy."

It is just over a year since the Consumer Credit Act obliged credit reference agencies to let individual members of the public have, on request, copies of their files. Now Credit Data, the largest credit reference organization in Britain, has analysed the first year's working of the new system.

The company, which reckons to have some 10 million items of information about defaulting debtors on its files, dealt with

nine million credit inquiries from trading organizations last year. In the same time it had 7,524 applications to see its files from members of the general public.

Nearly 2,000 of those (26 per cent) were worrying unnecessarily. Credit Data had nothing on them; 773 people exercised their right to add a note of explanation to the file; and 280 (about 3 per cent) obtained certificates of satisfaction from the courts to show that their debts had now been discharged.

Nearly 900 forgot to send the 25p they are supposed to pay for the copy of the file so Credit Data had to spend 7p a time sending out gentle reminders about that little matter first.

In total, the inquiries revealed 51 mistakes—ranging from misspelling and incorrectly entered dates to mis-entered debts. Of the mistakes 27 arose from faulty information supplied by the Lord Chancellor's Office in the form of erroneous court records.

How old must you be before you can drink alcohol in parts of licensed premises other than bars? Which 2 magazine asked nearly 2,000 people the question and found no one who knew the answer—which is five. Because the Licensing Act does not cover the situation, it is, in fact, legal for adults to buy tots of whisky for tots of five to drink in pub gardens.

SCOTCROS

Extracts from the statement by the chairman, Mr. W. R. Alexander

After five years of uninterrupted growth of sales and profits 1977 was clearly a considerable disappointment; the single major factor was exceptional expenditure of £334,000 incurred at our packaging plant in Edinburgh. However it was also a year of investment and development for Scotcros, notably the 80 per cent acquisition of the Remy Group in France.

The last quarter of the financial year was an exceptionally difficult trading period with shorter order books and therefore pressure on margins. The indications are that this trend has now been reversed and, with the most difficult part of the development cycle behind us, the group is equipped for a sustained period of organic growth both in the UK and overseas. I am hopeful that profits in the first half of the current year will return to the level of those for the same period as last year and the results for the current year as a whole will demonstrate that Scotcros has resumed the growth which has been a feature of recent years.

A copy of the report and accounts may be obtained from: The Secretary, Scotcros Limited, Fitzpatrick House, Cadogan Street, Glasgow G2 6QR

SCOTCROS

Packaging • Food and drink • Transport equipment

FINANCIAL NEWS

Pru's peak first-half life assurance sales

Record life assurance sales figures for the first half of 1978 were announced yesterday by the Prudential. Worldwide new annual premiums for life assurance and annuities rose by 7 per cent to £56m, while single premium and annuity considerations were £41.1m, against £40m.

In the United Kingdom, new annual premium business in the ordinary branch was 42 per cent up at £18m while industrial branch (the premiums collected at the home) new annual premiums were 9 per cent higher at £18m.

Pension plans for the self-employed were a particularly good market with premiums nearly doubled at £5.4m.

Marginal set-back at David S. Smith

Results of David S. Smith (Holdings), which recently arranged to pay back shareholders £1.6m under Section 460 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, show a slide in pre-tax profits from £1.32m to £1.13m. Turnover for the year to April 30 was up from £5.6m to £7.4m. Earnings of the printer and carton maker have dipped from £2.3p to £1.9p. A second interim of 2.10p has

Scots & Continental and unitization

Under the proposed unitization scheme, Scottish & Continental Investment is paying an interim dividend of 1.8p gross in lieu of the customary final. If unitization plans are approved, the company would be put into voluntary liquidation followed by the transfer of its net assets to MJ European Fund, a new United Kingdom unit trust. Each shareholder would then receive one unit in the new company for every unit held in SCI.

Thermal more than halved in first half

In line with the board's March warning, Thermal Syndicate's results fell in the half-year to April 30. Pre-tax profits, in fact, were more than halved at £202,000, compared with £551,000 last year. Group sales, however, rose from £4.7m to £5.17m.

"As a measure of prudence", the board is cutting the interim dividend from 4.54p to 3.03p gross.

Sir John Paget, the chairman,

Check to growth at Cestelon Ind

After a second-half fall, only a slight rise in pre-tax profits from £1.09m to £1.10m is reported by Cestelon Industries for the year to April 1. Turnover increased by £2m to £14.4m. The performance of the Wood Bastow group was disappointing. Since the date of acquisition, however, better financial controls and increased productivity have resulted in an improvement which is expected to be maintained throughout the current year.

The results of the loud-speaker division were affected by a depressed home market

Margins improve at Wellman Eng

In spite of a fall in turnover from £19.2m to £17.8m pre-tax profits of Wellman Engineering have increased by 10 per cent to £1.55m for the year to March 31. Earnings are up from 5.74p to 6.69p and the final dividend is 1.85p making a total of 3.5p against 2.14p. During last year the group acquired Hanson Trust and certain of the assets and business of British Furnaces. At the same time a non-trading group subsidiary which acquired this business changed its name to British Furnaces.

Armstrong control of Cornercroft

Armstrong Equipment has now gained control of Cornercroft, the automotive and aeronautical engineers, so adding to the long list of acquisitions it has made recently. The group bought a further 74,000 shares in Cornercroft at 65p a share, which, when added to those already held and the 155,000 acceptances received, means it now holds 1.25m ordinary shares in Cornercroft.

£13m (£10.3m). Pre-tax profit, £191,000 (£235,000). Earnings a share, 3.30p (5.89p). Dividend is 3.6p gross (3.25p).

MERGERS CLEARED

Proposed merger between

William Prym Werke KG and

Newey Group will not be referred to Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

CARDING

Offer by Unigate for Carding

Group has now become unconditional. Unigate has also acquired

Worldcard, which owns 33.9 per cent of Carding.

LONGAI VALLEY TEA

Walter Duncan and Goodrich's offer has been extended until

July 19, it now holds control.

CENTROVINCIAL ESTATES

Offers for Massell Thorpe have

become unconditional.

JOHN T. S. S. S.

Sales for year to March 31 were

£1.5m (£1.1m). Pre-tax profit was

£12,500 (£13,100). Final dividend is

2.2p gross (2p gross), making

5.1p gross (4.8p gross).

STROUD RILEY

Pre-tax profits for year to March

31, £480,000 (£332,000) on turnover

£7.4m (£6.2m). Earnings a share

12.75p (5.4p). Dividend is 2.24p

gross (1.51p).

Azcon to invest \$50m in mining

Operating income at Azcon, Consolidated Gold Fields' 89 per cent-owned American subsidiary, is expected to be \$20.8m, about \$5m more than last year, Mr David Lloyd-Jacob, Azcon's chief executive, said yesterday. He added that the company is investing \$50m over two years on developing mining projects.

Mr Lloyd-Jacob also forecast 1979 net income of \$12m, compared with an estimated \$10m this year. The outcome for 1979 could be even better, he said, but it would depend on demand for steel.

Azcon might build another steel mill and was not considering any further acquisitions for the moment. No income is yet being earned from mining, but the company is developing two gold mines, one in Quebec and another at Oriz in New Mexico.

Further cut in diamond surcharge

By Michael Prest

Surcharges over normal diamond prices at the London sale or "sight" due to start on Monday have been cut to 10 per cent by the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers.

Rumours in the diamond trade that if and when the surcharge is fully removed it will have to be replaced by a permanent price rise are dismissed by De Beers as "pure speculation".

A 40 per cent surcharge was introduced in March to tame speculation in stones in the cutting centres. It has been progressively reduced, until at last month's sight it was 15 per cent.

De Beers is confident that the surcharge has been effective in assuaging a stabilising market in the cutting centres,

Wilkins & Mitchell back to profits

By Michael Clark

Radical management reorganisation and a strong second half have enabled Wilkins & Mitchell, the machine tool engineer and Servis washing machine group, to return to the black following two years of heavy losses.

Figures for the full year to April 2, show a £585,000 turnaround into pre-tax profits of £64,000. The group's best performance of £1.5m was achieved way back in 1973. But the performance has not steadily worsened with profits of £1.4m in 1974 followed by £147,000 in 1975 and consecutive losses of £1.1m and £521,000 in the following years.

The board has passed the final dividend, making the interim of 0.15p gross the total for the year. The shares slipped 2p to 46p yesterday.

The company also announced it is hoping to take over Sewer Holdings for £250,000 in cash.

Mr Henry Wilkins, chairman, stated that there has been a further improvement in UK trading since the end of the financial year. So group results for the current year were expected to show a reasonable profit, despite the continued difficulties in Australia, which have continued to affect profits.

It is, therefore, hoped to pay an increased interim dividend in the current year.

Turnover last year increased by £3.9m to £49.2m, of which exports accounted for between 10 and 15 per cent. The biggest exporter is the group's machine tool side with over one third of its production being exported to places like South Africa, the Middle East and China.

Independent Television

A determined attempt by new consortia

Television is under attack. It must be said at once that it would be very surprising if Mr Jerry Mander's book, *Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television*, made much impression on such an entrenched and hypnotic mass-medium but there are other moves afoot which threaten change in the structure of independent television in this country.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill has been drawn up to prolong the life of the IBA's franchise to broadcast until December 31, 1981. While the issue is up in the air until the White Paper on the future of Broadcasting is published at the end of this month—immediately before the Summer Recess—it has been widely assumed that the extension will also take a further 18 months onto the franchises held by the television contracting companies.

But from the beginning of 1982 (or possibly as soon as August next year) licenses to broadcast commercial television programmes and to sell advertising time will be "up for grabs"—at least in theory. And new consortia are gearing up to challenge the status quo.

The Annan Report appeared broadly in agreement with policies pursued by the existing franchise holders and, while some Committee members raised objections, it

was generally held that diversification was desirable to counter-balance the swings of television profitability.

Investment in such "hedging" activities naturally raises the question as to whether such funds are thus being diverted from programme spending. Taken to its extreme, one could ask whether shareholders' safety is being given priority ahead of viewers in each contractor's region.

In the North East, a newly-formed consortium is bidding to capture the franchise currently held by Tyne-Tees Television, part of the Trident Group. Headed by Mr Stephen Watson, vice-chancellor of St Andrews University, Northumbria Television stresses that it is not criticising the existing licensee but seeks to set up as a major network producer in the same league as Granada in the North West or ATV in the Midlands. (ATV, incidentally, is subject to a bid to have off its East Midlands audience.)

There are at present five network groups which provide 51 per cent of all programmes shown on ITV. Regional companies, such as Tyne-Tees, network 8.5 per cent of all ITV broadcasts, while programmes for local consumption only comprise 6.5 per cent. It is worth noting that, according to

the IBA Annual Report for 1976-77, British-acquired programmes totalled 13.5 per cent and a similar proportion was purchased abroad.

In a very real sense, then, Northumbria's initiative is an appeal to local pride and its proposals to provide a further 200 jobs will be factor in any success it achieves. An attempt to become the sixth networker may entail some profit sacrifice given the region's relatively small advertising revenue base and as Northumbria deputy chairman, Vaux Breweries' chief, Mr Paul Nicholson, said recently, "the return on our investment will not be very wonderful".

"From the City's viewpoint", Vickers noted, "there are risks attached to a television franchise which make diversification desirable if not essential". If, when franchises are awarded next time, its absence creates a vacuum which new consortia would fill by more high-quality networked programmes whose revenue receipts fluctuated year by year it is a reasonable certainty that the Stock Exchange would concentrate on those existing contractors that retained their licenses.

Ray Maughan

Options

Business on the traded options pitch reached better levels yesterday with annual figures from GEC stimulating interest in this class and taking total turnover for the day to £12 contracts.

The GEC July options took most of the trade with the 200 at 30p and the 240 at 19p losing 2p each and the 260 dropping 3p to 41p. The nine-month options were not traded at all, with the exception of the January 280 which saw two contracts taken out before the figures.

Declarations day on the conventional options market saw lower volume in a wider spread of shares. A one account call option in John Brown was taken while Coalite and Chemical, London, Status Discount and Lyons also attracted interest.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL

The publication list for the offer for sale by Morgan Grenfell of Birmingham District Council's £50m floating-rate stock, 1983-85, closed fully subscribed; all applications from the public were allocated in full.

DAILY MAIL AND GEN TRUST

Pre-tax profit for year to March 31 was £2.8m against £2.6m. Earnings per share, 17.9p (17.2p). There will be a second interim dividend of 12.7p gross (11.3p gross) making a total of 19.3p gross (17.2p gross).

BENN BROTHERS

Company is to pay second interim dividend for year to June 30 of 2.3p gross, making a total for year of 3.5p gross (3.1p gross).

KINTA KELLAS RUBBER

Turnover for year March 31, £1.1m (£1.3m). Earnings per share 4.75p (5.9p). Final dividend is 3.7p gross (3.4p gross) making total of 5.3p gross (4.3p gross).

HUNTING PETROLEUM

Robert Fleming & Co announce that application lists for the offer for sale of 2.7m ordinary shares at 85p per share in Hunting Petroleum Services closed over-subscribed.

Briefly

CAPLAN PROFILE

The Caplan Profile Group have completed the purchase of the outstanding 50 per cent of Profile Expanded Plastics (Canada). The shares which were held by Gasco Distributing were acquired for Can\$420,000 cash.

MILN MARSTERS

Acceptances offer for Miln Marsters by Hilteshog AB have now been received on 90.39 per cent of equity.

B'AM PALETTE

Sales for half-year to April 30, £1.7m (£1.6m). Pre-tax profit, £121,000 (£93,000). Dividend is 3.6p gross (2.2p). Second half expected to bring similar profit to first, pointing to total of about £240,000 (£142,000).

TURNOVER FOR HALF-YEAR TO MARCH 31, £13.8m (£12.1m). Pre-tax profit, £339,000 (£401,000). Earnings a share, 2.49p (3.08p). Interim is 0.71p gross (0.65p).

COLMORE INV

Turnover for year to March 31,

Extracts from the Governor's Statement

The following are extracts from the Statement delivered by the Governor to the Annual General Court of Proprietors on Wednesday, 5th July, 1978.

Results

The profit of the Group for the year to 31st March, 1978, increased to a level of £42,862,000. The profit attributable to the Capital Stock of the Bank, after allowing for taxation and minority interests, amounted to £25,520,000.

It is an encouraging sign of the continued improvement in the economy that it was not necessary this year to make any special provision against advances. The need for such a special provision first arose in 1975 and continued at reducing amounts in 1976 and 1977.

The growth in the profitability of the Bank has enabled your Directors to recommend a final dividend, net of tax, of 10p per £1 unit of Stock, which, together with 5p already paid makes a total for the year of 15p per £1 unit of Capital Stock of the Bank, as enlarged by the Scrip issue which took place last July. During the year the amount of Capital Stock in issue has also been increased by a further £1,678,783 as a result of the successful issue of Capital Stock to permanent employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries.

Since the year end, as stockholders will no doubt have read, the Bank has acquired from Northern Foods Limited of Hull, England, the whole of the share capital of British Credit Trust Limited—a hire purchase company operating mainly in the north of England and engaging in the provision of instalment credit in the consumer trade. The cost of this acquisition, amounting to £11 million, has been satisfied by the issue of £3,410,853 Capital Stock of the Bank which was placed in Dublin and London to provide the purchase price. British Credit Trust will be a useful complement to the instalment credit services of Bank of Ireland Finance (U.K.) Limited.

The Capital Stock issued for this acquisition does not rank for the final dividend proposed for the year just past but will rank for all future dividends. You will be aware that the Directors, in accordance with the policy of reducing the disparity between the interim and final dividends, have announced that the interim dividend for the current year, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, will be 8.5p per £1 of Capital Stock.

The Group

The quality of the results for the present year has stemmed from an improved contribution from every constituent part of the Group. In the Bank itself, there has been substantial growth in deposit and current account balances and advances to

customers in line with the improved economic conditions which prevailed during the year. There was a very satisfactory increase in the Bank's contribution to Group profit before taxation charges.

Bank of Ireland Finance Limited and its associated companies actively participated in the increased demand for instalment credit both in Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

The Investment Bank of Ireland Limited, which has now become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank, was able to avail of the lending opportunities presented by lower interest rates during the year and the same situation also helped Chase and Bank of Ireland (International) Limited.

Overseas, the Bank was particularly pleased to open its first United States operating branch, in New York City—on 5th Avenue—and this office has already acquired an excellent flow of business.

In Britain the Bank's activities were further extended by the opening of a new office at Cardiff, bringing our total number of branches in Britain to sixteen.

The Bank's wholly-owned subsidiary, Property Loan and Investment Company Limited, continues to play an important part in the range of the Group's services to the home financing sector.

The results of the year are a great credit to Management and Staff throughout the Group and I know that Stockholders will join with me in expressing our appreciation for what has been achieved.

Policy and Outlook

Stockholders will know, from my previous statement and those of my predecessors, of the Bank's keen awareness that what is good for Ireland is good for the Bank. The Bank provides a wide range of important services to virtually every sector of the economy, be it public or private, agricul-

tural, industrial or service, corporate or individual. Because it has such a wide spectrum of customers it cannot but be conscious of changing trends in attitudes and expectations. It was this which led the Bank, some three years ago, to commission a series of studies by outside consultants into the needs of the economy which identified the crucial importance of increasing the pace of wealth-generation as the means by which current expectations in relation to living standards could be satisfied, social benefits improved and increased investment made possible.

It is clear that the economic stability of society depends on fostering the development of genuinely economic job opportunities for the growing workforce.

Since then, the dominating consideration in the minds of the Directors and senior management of the Bank, has been to evolve policies, services and methods of operation to meet these needs in the economy, without in any way undermining the overriding and permanent responsibility of a bank to protect the savings of the community of which it is the custodian. In this quest the Bank may claim to have made satisfactory progress during the past year.

In terms of its profit performance it has been able to retain and put to reserves sufficient to maintain the prudent relationship between its capital and reserves and its other liabilities. The Bank has also taken the first steps, to which I referred last year, to invest directly in new ventures which will both add to the amount of wealth generated in Ireland and to the number of economic jobs in the future.

I should, perhaps, stress that there is an important difference in kind between equity investment in new ventures and the Bank's traditional role as a lender. Equity investment of its essence involves a higher degree of risk. The Bank, therefore, must be quite clearheaded about the distinctions between the two and, in its wish to foster

and encourage new investment, must do so in a manner which does not in any way diminish the quality of its risk judgement—the two must be kept quite separate. In particular, the Bank must be satisfied that, in its programmes for equity investment, it moves no faster than is justified by its capacity to augment out of profits the total of its reserves against which these investments would have to be written down, if the hopes for them were not realised. Our decision to add to the Court of Directors a number of senior executives of the Group will, we believe, strongly reinforce our capacity to identify and provide for the financial needs of the community. I am delighted, on behalf of Stockholders, to welcome our new colleagues.

Economic Comment

1977 was a good year for the economy of the Republic of Ireland. National production rose by 5% in volume, an outstanding performance by our own and even by EEC standards. Inflation abated and the balance of payments deficit (at about £120 million) remained within the previous year's manageable limit. A strong uplift in manufacturing output, still fortunately maintained, brought thousands of new jobs in this area. The rise of about one-third in agricultural incomes greatly strengthened the purchasing power of farmers and their support, both direct and indirect, for our interdependent economy.

In consequence, there has been a welcome and sustained fall in the total number of unemployed on the Live Register, though the level remains too high, particularly in the younger age strata of our rising population.

The fiscal policies introduced in the Budget at the beginning of 1977, with their implicit recognition that economic recovery and future growth require an environment

conducive to enterprise, were helpful in these developments. The new Government came to power in June, 1977 with a strong mandate from the electorate and its expansionary policies are set to maintain the advance of the economy in output and employment.

Unfortunately, however, doubts have been raised as to the attainability of a 7% growth this year. It is to be hoped that the exposition in the Green Paper of national problems and aims and subsequent discussions with the major interests, will lead to co-operation throughout the community in ensuring, on the basis of better industrial relations, the rapid improvement in investment, output and productivity, which is needed to create jobs for the growing numbers now seeking them.

Buoyant external demand for Irish goods and services would, of course, be a powerful aid to progress, assuming we were competitively geared to it. The growth in world trade is, however, not expected to be much, if anything, above last year's rate. The prime hope of accelerated expansion now centres on the outcome of the further consideration, by surplus countries attending the Seven Nation Bonn Conference this month of the possibility of increasing their demand for imports.

From the point of view of the Bank as well as the community we must also hope for an end to the undesirable volatility in interest rates presently produced by uncertainty as to the policies which may be pursued in the major economies of the world.

In Northern Ireland economic conditions were difficult during the year under review. However, during August 1977, the Secretary of State announced a Government programme for the investment of £1,000 million in Northern Ireland. As a result of this programme, the Department of Commerce is now able to offer attractive

financial aid and incentives to industry and, as this investment takes place, the economy should benefit accordingly. In addition, an Economic Council has been established and it is hoped that it will play a positive role in shaping the future of industry and commerce. One of the first tasks facing the Council is the implementation of the O'Quigley Report on the Northern Ireland economy.

The importance of agriculture to the economy was reflected in a greatly increased commitment by the Bank to that sector in the current year. The extent of this commitment imposes a responsibility on us as a bank to ensure that our role is not just to respond to the financial needs of the industry but also to help accelerate its development.

The Way Ahead

As I have said, the first objective of the economy must be the creation of jobs while satisfying, as far as possible, the expectations of our people for a rising standard of living. Constructive financial services supported by adequate resources are essential to the achievement of these goals.

With this in mind your Directors look forward to a fresh increase in the effectiveness of the Bank's operations and to an extension of the scope and quality of its services to the public. A number of factors must contribute to such development, not least improved communications with staff and customers.

I believe that by the recent enlargement of the Court of Directors and changes in the structure of management, the Bank is well equipped to succeed in this task.

William Finlay, Governor.

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st March 1978

	1977	1978
£000	£000	£000
Operating Profit		
The Bank	35,754	28,585
Subsidiaries	7,088	5,376
	42,842	33,961
Additional Provision against Advances	—	1,500
	42,842	32,461
Profit before Taxation	17,025	12,908
Profit after Taxation	25,826	19,553
Minority Interests in Subsidiaries	306	800
Profit attributable to Capital Stockholders of the Bank	25,520	18,753
Dividends	5,366	3,790
Retained Profit transferred to Revenue Reserves	20,154	15,163
Earnings per £1 of Capital Stock		
Basic	74.2p	57.8p
Fully diluted	67.8p	51.7p

Consolidated Balance Sheet at 31st March 1978

	1977	1978
	£000	£000
Capital and Reserves		
Capital Stock	36,335	25,268
Capital Reserves	7,013	11,390
Revenue Reserves	94,357	72,227
	<u>137,705</u>	<u>108,885</u>
Loan Stocks	16,533	18,580
Minority Interests in Subsidiaries	2,892	3,765
Deferred Taxation	16,896	12,888
Current Liabilities		
Notes in Circulation	6,993	5,398
Deposit, Current and Other Accounts	1,947,001	1,589,989
Current Taxation	20,516	12,170
Proposed Final Dividend payable 7th July, 1978	3,633	2,779
	<u>1,978,143</u>	<u>1,610,246</u>
	<u>2,152,171</u>	<u>1,754,474</u>
Current Assets		
Liquid Assets	543,198	420,310
Investments	398,885	322,775
Advances to Customers, other accounts and balances outstanding under hire purchase and other instalment agreements, less provisions	1,074,409	900,980
Items in transit	61,812	49,487
	<u>2,078,304</u>	<u>1,694,552</u>
Equipment in hands of Lessees	35,469	24,230
Bank Premises, other Properties and Equipment	38,398	35,682
	<u>2,152,171</u>	<u>1,754,474</u>

Commodities

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Recent Issues

RIGHTS SALE:
Bookings: 2001

Wall Street

New York, July 6.—Trade on the stock markets was mixed today.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.38 points at 807.17.

Some 850 issues showed losses with about 600 higher. Volume totalled 24,970,000 shares compared with 23,730,000 shares Wednesday.

Analysts attributed the overall market loss to concern about inflation and rising interest rates.

Revising upward its forecast on consumer price gains, the administration forecast a 7.2 per cent rise in consumer prices this year, the biggest increase in four years.

The new cost of living projection is about one per cent below the official forecast of last January.

Brokers also reported concern that the rapidly expanding money supply would force the Federal Reserve to tighten credit further.

HEALTHY LIFE ASSURANCE
Record figure for new annualized premiums, £1.3m for half year to June 30, compared with £540,000. New single premiums reached record £5.6m against £6.2m for the whole of 1977. Board looks forward to growth at a comparable rate to the end of the year.

ABN Bank	10%
Barclays Bank	10%
B.C.C.I. Bank	10%
Consolidated Crdts.	10%
C. Hoare & Co. ...	*10%
Lloyds Bank	10%
London Mercantile	10%
Midland Bank	10%
Nat Westminster ..	10%
Rosminster Ltd ..	10%
TSB	10%
Williams and Glyn's ..	10%

Foreign Exchange

The dollar yesterday recovered much of this week's losses in a general rally that started initially with a bout of profit-taking.

The pound went against the lower trend of Europeans, its currency basket level improving to 166.56 (51.4), while the franc was only cent easier at 18.8675.

Although off the top, the dollar did particularly well against the Swiss franc 1.8340 (1.8170) and others showing dollar losses were the D mark 2.6665 (2.9533), French franc 4.49 (4.54) and the Italian lire closed at 203.00 (previous 201.50).

Gold lost \$1.75 an ounce to close in London at \$182.625.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates (day's range) 8 July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
3	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
4	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
5	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
6	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
7	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
8	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
9	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
11	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
12	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
13	1.00	1.00	1.00	1																											

New York	\$1,890-4,725	\$1,8670-6880
Atlanta	\$2,0985-1000	\$3,0980-6690
Amsterdam	4,15-10741	4,150-1641
Buenos Aires	10,30-334	10,30-341
Copenhagen	10,30-334	10,30-341
Frankfurt	3,53-67m	3,55-66m
London	84,30-83,50c	84,40-80c
Madrid	145,00-50p	145,00-50p
Milan	1,981-900	1,987-954p
Oslo	10,10-10,10c	10,10-10,10c
Paris	9,30-40	9,30-39d
Stockholm	5,40-54k	5,40-53k
Tokyo	37,4-84c	37,8-80c
Zurich	27,50-80c	27,50-80c

Effective exchange rate compared with U.S. dollar, December 31, 1971, was 61.0¢. U.S. dollar = 1.64 Mexican pesos.

	1 month	3 months
New York	42-44c prem	1.25-1.15c prem
Baltimore	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Los Angeles	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
San Francisco	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Philadelphia	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Washington	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Chicago	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
St. Louis	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
San Antonio	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Fort Worth	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Dallas	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Phoenix	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
San Diego	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
San Jose	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Seattle	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Portland	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Denver	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Minneapolis	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Omaha	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Des Moines	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Sioux Falls	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Lincoln	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Nebraska	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Missouri	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Illinois	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Indiana	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Ohio	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Michigan	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Wisconsin	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Minnesota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
North Dakota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
South Dakota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Nebraska	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Missouri	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Illinois	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Indiana	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Ohio	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
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Michigan	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
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South Dakota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
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Ohio	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Michigan	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Wisconsin	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
Minnesota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem
North Dakota	35-40c prem	1.50-1.40c prem</

Canadian dollar rate (equal to 0.8825-08).

Euro-\$ Deposits
 1% call, 7%-8% seven days, 7%-8% one month,
 8%-9% three months, 8%-8% six months, 8%-8%
Gold
 Gold fixed: am. \$183.43 (an ounce), pm.
 187.75.
 Swiss franc (per coin; non-resident, 5188-190

100% resident. 5189-1
Sovereigns (incl): non-resid
28% resident. 354-582, 12

WALTER DUNCAN & GOODRICKE
Pre-tax profit for 1977, £311,000 (£526,000). Net asset value a share, 17p (602p). Dividend is 12 per cent, against 10 per cent.

Discount market

Even though there was a late slight Treasury swing against the pound, the market was not so badly damaged to rule off their books at the end of the day without help from the Bank of England. Banks' balances will likely be a little way down this morning, however.

Houses got a fairly relaxed feeling, but not a bit out of the official forecast of a modest surplus and some money appeared at rates that eased gradually from 10.9 per cent to 8.1 per cent.

Financial balances were taken at between 10.5 and 10.7 per cent, so the houses able to close earlier in the afternoon got their money down

A fairly large Treasury bill take-up, a sizable excess of Revenue transfers to the Exchequer over Government disbursements and the repayment of small loans made by the Bank on Wednesday all drained liquidity from the market, although this was largely offset by banks' balances that were a long way up overnight and a slight reduction in the note circulation.

Money Market

Rates

Overnight High 94 Low 78
Week Fixed 84

[illegible]

	Secondary MMR	ICD Rates
1 month	25-9%	6 months
1 month	10-1%	12 months

Local Authority Markets			
days	50%	3 months	95%-10%
days	50%	6 months	10%-10%
month	50%	1 year	10%-10%
Interbank Markets			
Overnight	Open 92-94	Close 92	
week	92-94	6 months	10%-10%
month	92-94	9 months	10%-10%
month	92-94	12 months	10%-10%

First Class Finance Houses • 300
3 months 10% 6 months

TECHNOLOGY INV
Net revenue for year to May 31.
\$21,000 (\$453,000). Dividend is
\$.87p (3.4p).

			High	Low		
	Bid	Offer	Tenors		Bid	Offer

[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

British funds rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 26. Dealings End, Today. \$Contango Day, July 10. Settlement Day, July 11.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
"More ye go"

[illegible]

£8,000+ Appointments

CJA RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex No. 887374

AVERY-LAURENCE

This is an international company supplying exploration and production equipment to the oil industry in South East Asia, The Middle East and Australia. The company has vacancies for:-

FABRICATIONS SUPERINTENDENTS

Salary negotiable around £12,000 p.a.

Applicants for this position should have at least five years' experience in fabrication of pressure vessels and piping assemblies in accordance with ASME codes. Applications, which should include a detailed career resume, photocopies of diplomas, a passport photograph and home and office telephone numbers, will be treated in strict confidence and forwarded unopened to our client. Please address to: Reference AL 10381/77.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED,
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH.

Public Company requires

ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

for Its Ladies Fashion Division

THE COMPANY is engaged in a wide range of activities in the textiles, clothing and allied trades. THE APPLICANT will be energetic with a successful career in the ladies fashion trade and a buyer for sales.

THE JOB will be to assist the managing director in the design, production and sales functions of the company.

THE REWARD is a salary negotiable, c. £8,000, with commensurate fringe benefits and pleasant working surroundings in London.

Apply in writing to:

The Personnel Manager
Bolton House
23-25 Charter House Square
London, E.C.1.

SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS

LIBYAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM (L.I.P.)

LIP Tripoli is expanding its training effort and is seeking instructors/Engineers to teach Libyan Apprentices technical skills and workshop technology to prepare them as craftsmen and operators in the Oil Industry. Instructors will also be responsible for developing and revising courses and course manuals and identifying training requirements in connection with the career development of trainees.

Applicants must have at least ordinary National or City and Guild Certificates and no less than 5 years' practical experience. A teaching qualification or craft training experience is essential. Instructors/Engineers and teachers are required in the following areas:-

1. English as a foreign language.
2. Electricity—including generation, transmission and controls.
3. Instrumentation—including pneumatic technology and electronic automation systems.
4. Diesel/Petrol Engine—including turbines, pumping units and compressors.
5. Refinery and Petrochemical.
6. Oil Production Engineering.
7. Drilling Engineering.

Attractive salaries, according to experience and qualifications plus housing allowance, 45 days annual leave with fares paid to the U.K. and other benefits will be offered.

Please write immediately giving details of personal vitae. Applications should include a brief personal and career history and details of qualifications and experience should be forwarded to the following address:-

The Director,
LIBYAN INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM,
c/o Cultural Attache,
Embassy of the Libyan Arab Republic,
62 Ennismore Gardens,
LONDON, S.W.7.

Personal interviews will be advised later on.

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD

CHIEF ENGINEER

The Board is looking for a Chief Engineer to undertake a range of interesting and challenging duties.

The successful candidate will have management responsibility for a number of engineering services including safety, long term planning and common services for the control of large projects.

The central requirements for this post are drive and the intellectual quality to control a range of engineering activities, backed by achievement in senior engineering management. Experience in all the areas listed is not essential but responsibility for construction or operation of large power stations, or nuclear engineering, will be an advantage.

The ability to lead negotiations with outside bodies and to present the Board's case at public meetings is important.

Salary for the post will be not less than £13,500 per annum.

Please write to the Chairman,
South of Scotland Electricity
Board, Cathcart House,
Glasgow G4 4BE not later than
11th August, 1978.

AIRLINE CAPTAINS

Boeing 707 and 737

Three year contracts will be offered to suitable candidates with possible extensions by mutual agreement. Boeing 707 Captains may opt for basing in Lusaka or London. In either case, attractive salaries will be payable in Sterling.

Boeing 737 Captains will be based in Lusaka and paid in Sterling. In addition, tax-paid gratuities will be paid on the following scale:

- 1.15% of basic salary after one year
- 2.20% of basic salary after two years
- 3.25% of basic salary after three years

Fifty-two days annual leave.

Generous travel concessions for employees and dependants.

Qualifications:
B707 Captain ICAO Approved ATPL/IR at least 6,000 hours total with minimum of 1,000 hours on type.
B737 Captain ICAO Approved ATPL/IR at least 5,000 hours total with minimum of 500 hours on type.

Applications in writing to: The Personnel Manager,
Zambia Airways Corporation,
165 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DE.

Zambia Airways

MUSEUM OF LONDON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(Revised advertisement; previous applicants need not reapply.)

The person appointed for this new post will be responsible for the Education, Information, Exhibition and Publication, and Administration departments. He or she will be concerned with developing the services of the Museum to the general public. The successful applicant will normally have a degree and experience of working in or with a museum or similar organisation concerned with the presentation and interpretation of collections and historic sites. Salary within the scale £7,561-£9,084 (inclusive of London Allowance and salary supplements). Further details are available from:-

The Director

MUSEUM OF LONDON

London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

to whom applications should be sent by 24th July, 1978.

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS
(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTION

Applications are invited from Freemasons, preferably not more than 50 years of age (who must have occupied the Chair of a Lodge), for appointment with immediate effect, as SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTION. In addition the successful applicant may, in due course, be appointed as Secretary of the new Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys which is being established.

The initial salary will be not less than £8,500 per annum.

Forms of Application may be obtained from A. A. Huckle, Secretary of the Institution, 31 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AG.

These Forms of Application, together with copies of recent testimonials and the names of two referees must be received by K. S. Carmichael, F.C.A., F.T.I.L., 72 London Wall, London EC2M 5NL, not later than the 31st July 1978.

HEAD OF PUBLICITY

Professional Society in London requires experienced Journalist as Head of Publicity. Knowledge of parliamentary procedure, awareness of the requirements of the national and provincial press, television and radio, the ability to write and present professional affairs for publication, and the expertise to arrange press coverage of an annual conference essential.

Commencing salary in the range £7,000-£8,500 p.a. Pension Scheme.

Apply in writing to Secretary and Registrar,
The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,
1 Lambeth High Street,
London SE1 7JN
marking envelope "Head of Publicity".

Every Friday

£8,000 plus

APPOINTMENTS.

For details

ring

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

A U.S. special metals firm is establishing an operation in the U.K. for the manufacture of their products.

You should have experience in the metals industry, preferably in the cold working of strip products. Preferred age would be mid thirties with an engineering background.

We offer a good basic salary, bonus system, pension scheme and you will be entitled to the use of the division car.

Salary range: £8,000-£12,000.

Apply in confidence to: M. T. Young, Esq.,
65-66 Queen Street, London, E.C.4.

Applications are invited for the post of

GENERAL MANAGER

from a person who has demonstrated an ability to exercise management skills at a high level. Professional qualifications are an advantage, but leadership and initiative are of a primary importance to effect the association's policies.

Proven administrative ability is essential. Applicants will be responsible for housing/management development, both in the new build and rehabilitation and in establishing and maintaining liaison with local and central authority bodies.

Salary not less than £8,000 but negotiable according to age and experience. Car provided. 5 weeks' annual leave. Contributory pension scheme.

Closing date July 21st, 1978. Please reply to:

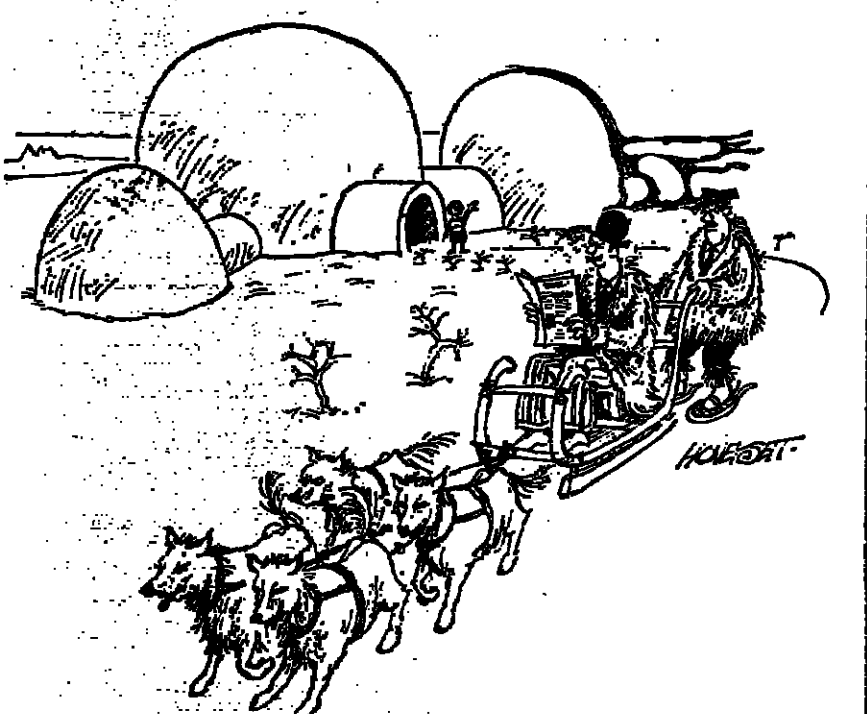
Mr Eric Watts

215 Monmouth Drive

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PERSONAL also on pages 29 and 30

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